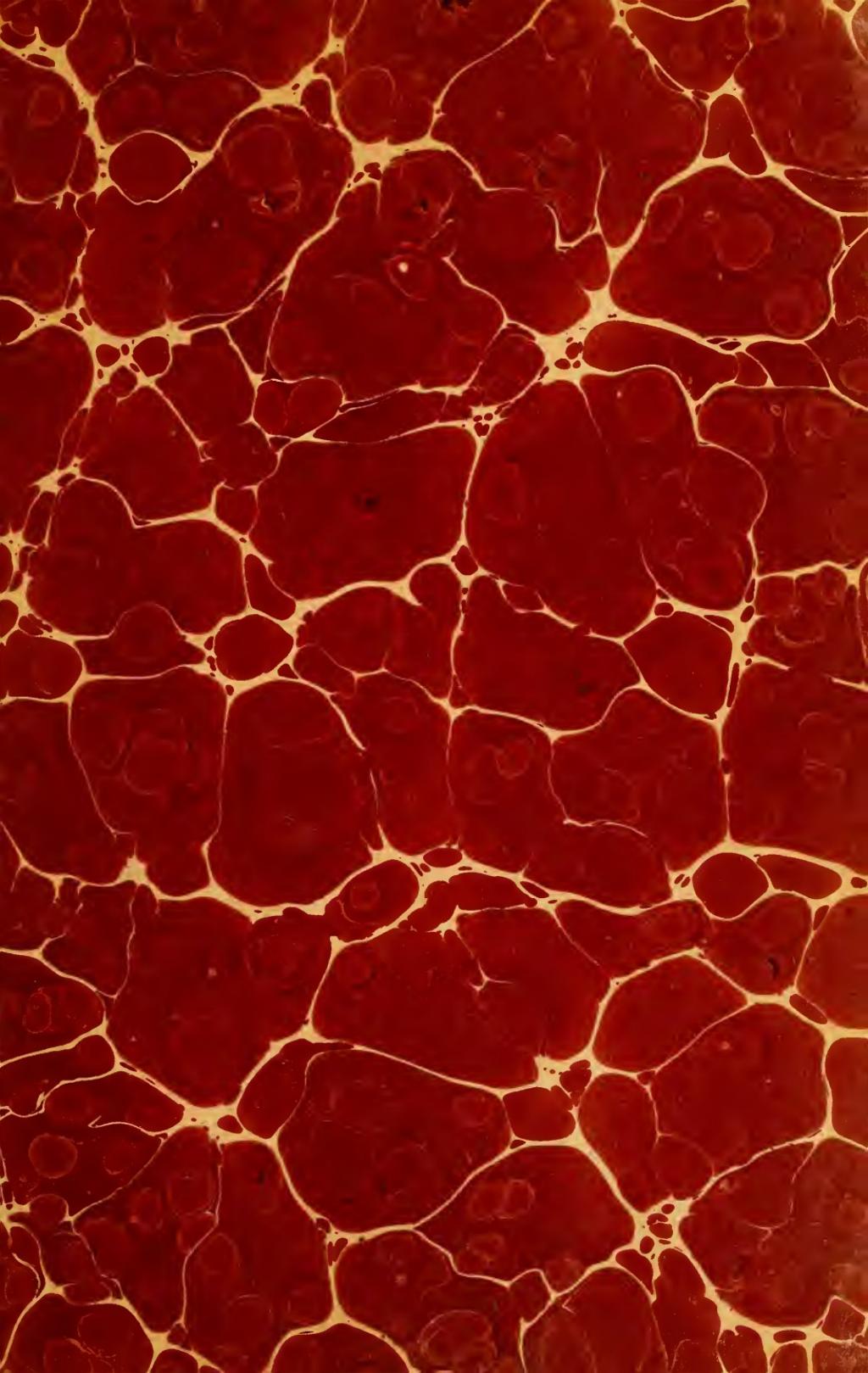


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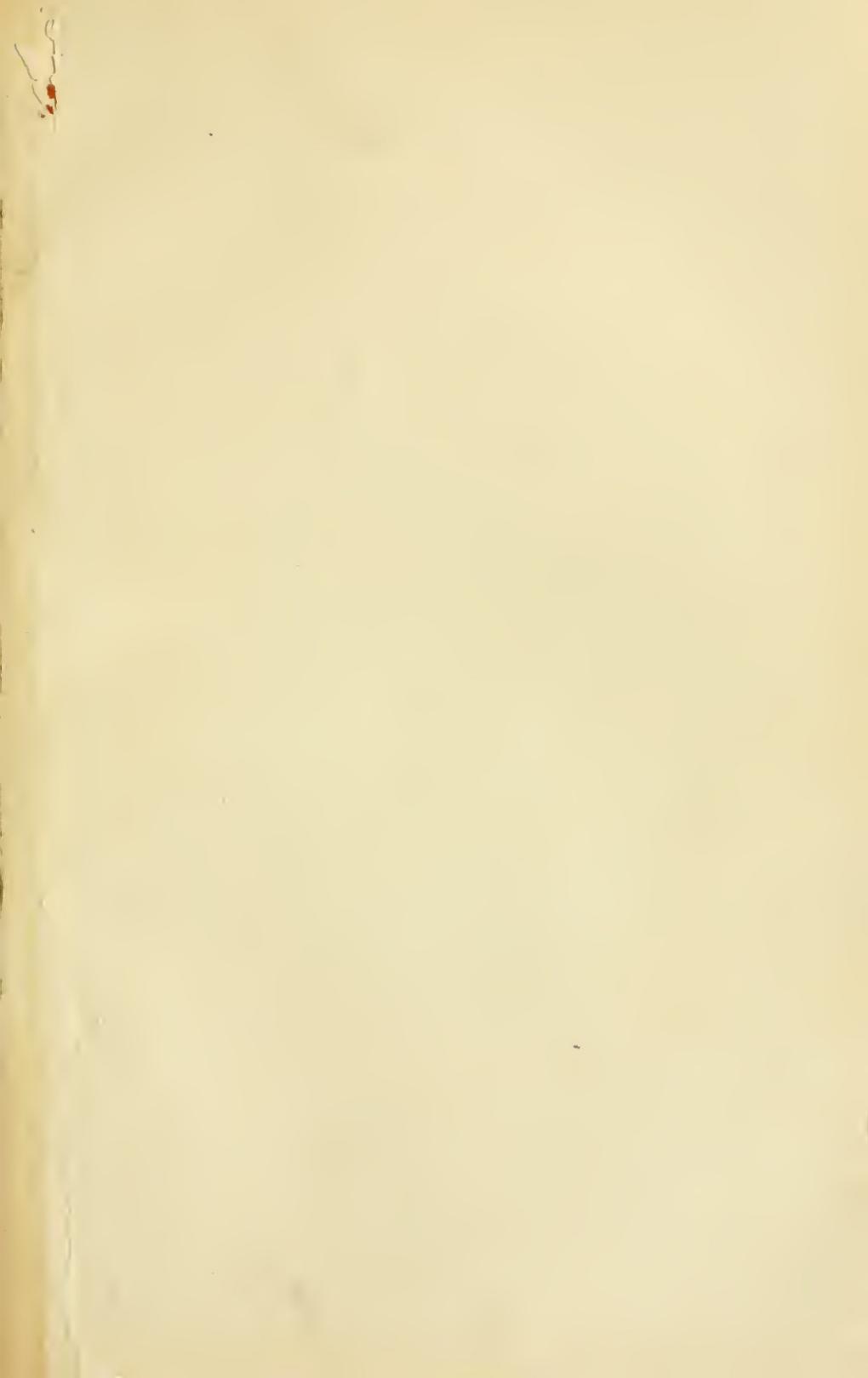


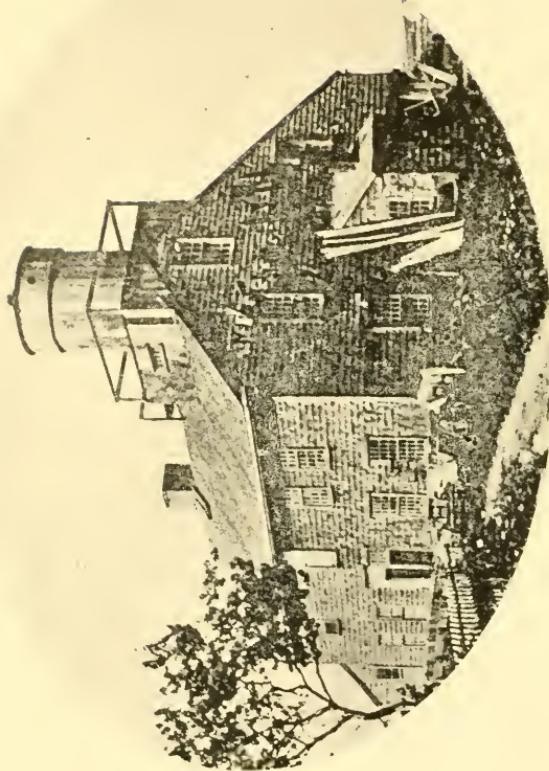












WHERE UNION LODGE HELD ITS FIRST MEETINGS.

⊖ NANTUCKET ⊖  
**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.**

Organized May 9, 1894.

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A CENTURY

—OF—

**FREE MASONRY**

IN NANTUCKET,

BY ALEXANDER STARBUCK.

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PUBLISHED BY  
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1903.

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# A CENTURY OF FREE MASONRY.

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ON April 30th, 1733, Right Worshipful Anthoney, Lord Viscount Montague, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of England, commissioned Right Worshipful Henry Price to be Provincial Grand Master of Masons of New England, and authorized him to establish lodges in North America. In accordance with that commission lodges were instituted, the first one to be organized in America being St. John's Lodge, of Boston. In succession Right Worshipful Grand Master Price and his successors in office instituted lodges at Philadelphia (under the direction of our Worshipful Brother Benjamin Franklin), at Portsmouth, N. H., Charleston, S. C., Antigua, B. W. I., Annapolis, N. S., Newfoundland, Newport, R. I., Halifax, N. S., Maryland, New Haven, and New London, Conn., and a score of other localities, the organizations being in those days almost wholly limited to seacoast towns. In Massachusetts there were organized under this authority, Philanthropic Lodge, of Marblehead, in 1760; St. John's, of Newburyport, in 1766; Tyrian, of Gloucester, in 1770; and Union, of Nantucket, in 1771.

The petition for a charter for Union Lodge reads as follows:—

*To the Right Worshipful John Rowe, Esq., Grand Master Mason for North America:—*

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR:—We, the Subscribers, being sensible that it lies in our Power to Propagate that Ancient & Honourable body of Free and Accepted Masons here in this Place: And as we think it our indispensible Duty to use our best Endeavours to Propagate so noble an Art with all the Strictness and Regularity as becomes Members of a just and perfect Lodge; and Right Worshipful we are likewise sensible that no one ought to come to any light or knowledge by any Clandestine or unregular Method, that may tend to cast any Disgrace upon the Fraternity, which we shall always be sorry to hear of; And we shall always use our best Endeavours to promote so laudable a Society when it is established in due form. And now Rt. Worshipful Sir, We desire and request

of your Worship that if it is consistant with your will and pleasure that you would send us a Warrant so that we may have a just and perfect Lodge Consecrated here, so that when any Candidates offer themselves, we may be able to deal with them in due form.—Right Worshipful our Motive is this, first, our Duty to our Maker ; second, to our fellow men ; thirdly, to the Fraternity in general throughout the Globe ; and Sir we would acquaint your Worship that there is several that hath offered themselves as Candidates thinking that we had power to deal with them, & Men of good Character. And now Right Worshipful we would have you take the Matter into your serious Consideration, and to act agreeable to the trust reposed in you, and if your Worship thinks we are worthy of a Warrant and will send us one, we your worthy Brothers in Duty Bound shall ever pray.

Nantucket, April 16, 1771.

P. S.—We would desire your Worship to send us an Answer as soon as is Convenient.

WILL'M BROCK, M. M.,  
JOS'N DENISTON,  
HENRY SMITH,  
WILLIAM WORTH,  
CHRIS'R HUSSEY, F. C.,  
TIMO FOLGER, Do.

Respecting this petition the records give this report :

ST. JOHN'S GRAND LODGE,  
Quarterly Communication, Bunch of Grapes Tavern, Boston,  
Friday, April 26, 1771.

"The Lodge was informed from the Chair that a number of Brethren belonging to Nantucket had Petitioned for a Warrant to hold a Lodge in that Place, and said Petition being read, the Grand Master asked the Counsel of the Lodge, who joined with him in Opinion that the Grand Secretary do acquaint the Petitioners by Letter, that three Master Masons are necessary to the Constituting of a New Lodge ; also with the Expence attending the same ; and desire them to Nominate one of the Petitioners for their first Master."

In conformity to these implied instructions the following letter was sent to the petitioning Brethren :

BOSTON, 27th April, 1771.

SIR :—At a Grand Lodge or Quarterly Communication held at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern in Boston on Friday, the 26th Instant, a Petition from a Number of Brethren dated at Nantucket April 16th, 1771, requesting a Warrant to hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in said Place was Read ; And after due Consideration thereon, the Grand Master with the Advice of said Grand Lodge directed "that the Grand Secre-

" tary do acquaint the Petitioners by Letter that Three Master  
" Masons are necessary to the constituting of a New Lodge ;  
" also with the Expence attending the same ; And desire them  
" to nominate one of the Petitioners for their first Master."

In Obedience to said Direction I take this Opportunity thro' you Sir, to acquaint the said Petitioners with the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge relative to their Petition, and inform you that the Cost of a Deputation will be Three Guineas and an half, to be paid on the delivery thereof. I likewise desire you would let me know if there are Three Master Masons of your Number : And who you think fit to Nominate as your first Master. After I am made acquainted with these Particulars, I presume the Grand Master will give Directions for a Deputation to be made out with all convenient Dispatch.

Interim I remain, Sir,

Yours and the other Petitioners' Affectionate Brother  
and very humble Servant,

THO: BROWN, Gr. Sec'y.

Mr. CHRISTO. HUSSEY,  
at Nantucket.

There is no record to show just what reply was made to the letter of the Grand Secretary, but it is evident there were at least the requisite number of Master Masons, that the fee was forthcoming and that Worshipful Brother Captain William Brock was nominated as their first Master, for with commendable celerity a Charter was issued, of which the following is a copy :

[SEAL.] JOHN ROWE, G. M.

To all and Every our Right Worshipful and Loving Brethren, Free and Accepted Masons now residing or that may hereafter Reside in Sherburne in the County of Nantucket in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. We JOHN ROWE Esquire, Provincial Grand Master of the Antient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for all North America, where no other Grand Master is Appointed,

SEND GREETING.

WHEREAS Application hath been made unto us by several Brethren Free and Accepted Masons now residing at Sherburne aforesaid ; setting forth that they think it their indispensable Duty to propagate the Royal Art with all the Strictness and Regularity that becomes Masons of a just and perfect Lodge ; that they shall always use their best Endeav-

ours to promote so laudable a Society when it is Established in due form : Therefore Pray that we would Constitute them into a Regular Lodge, and appoint our Brother Captain William Brock to be their first Master.

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE

That We of the Great Trust, Power and Authority, reposed in us by His Grace the Most Worshipful HENRY SOMERSET, Duke of Beaufort, &c., Grand Master of MASONs, have Constituted and Appointed our Right Worshipful and well beloved Brother Captain WILLIAM BROCK to be the first Master of the Lodge at Sherburne aforesaid, and do hereby impower him to Congregate the Brethren together, and form them into a Regular Lodge, he taking special Care that all and every Member thereof, and all transient Persons admitted therein have been, or shall be regular made Masons. And that he appoint two Wardens and other Officers to a Lodge Appertaining, for the due Regulation of said Lodge for One Year: at the end of which he shall Nominate a new Master to be approved by the Lodge, at least two-thirds of the Members in his favour, and said new Master shall Nominate and Appoint two Wardens and a Secretary for the ensuing Year, also a Treasurer, who must have the Votes of two thirds of the Members in his favour; and so the same Course Annually. AND WE DO HEREBY GIVE to said Lodge all the Privileges and Authority of other Regular Lodges ; Requiring them to observe all and every of the Regulations contained in the Printed Book of Constitutions (except such as may have been, or may be Repealed at any Quarterly Communication or other General Meeting of the Grand Lodge in London,) to be kept and observed, as also such other Rules and Instructions as may from Time to Time be transmitted to them by Us, or our Deputy, or Successors to either for the Time being: And that they do Annually send an Account in Writing to Us, or our Deputy, or Successors to either of Us for the Time being, of the Names of the Members of said Lodge, and their Place of Abode, with the Days and Place of Meeting, with any other things they may think proper to Communicate for the benefit of MASONRY ; And that they do Annually keep the Feast of St. John the Baptist, or St. John the Evangelist, or both, and Dine together on said Day or Days, or as near either of them as shall be most convenient ; And lastly, that they do Regularly Communicate with the Grand Lodge in Boston, by sending to the Quarterly Communication such Charity as their Lodge shall think fit, for the Relief of Poor Brethren, with the Names of those that Contributed the same, that in case any such may come to want Relief, they may have the preference to others.

GIVEN under Our Hand and Seal of MASONRY at BOSTON  
the 27th Day of May, A: D. 1771, and of MASONRY 5771,

RICH'D GRIDLEY, D. G. M.,  
JNO. CUTLER, S. G. W.,  
ABR'M SAVAGE, J. G. W.

By the Grand Master's Command,  
Tuo: BROWN, Gr. Sec'y.

The record of the first communication of Union Lodge is of interest in this connection. It reads as follows :

" Nantucket, New England, May 9, in the Year 1771.  
In our Lodge duly formed

Brother William Brock, Master,  
" Joseph Dennison, Senior Warden,  
" Henry Smith, Junior Warden.\*

Proceeded as follows :.

Initiated Bro. Nathaniel Coffin,  
" Tristram Barnard,  
" Andrew Worth."

The next meeting on record was held on the 15th of August following. At that time Brothers Samuel Barrett and George Ramsdell were initiated. In the interim between the two meetings the Charter probably had been received. The requirement of three Master Masons by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge had been met in the persons of Worshipful Brothers William Brock, who served as Worshipful Master for the first year; Brother Joseph Dennison, who was the first Senior Warden; and Brother Henry Smith, who was the first Junior Warden. Who the other officers were does not appear from the records, nor is there any known way to ascertain their names.

On receipt of its Charter the Lodge was fairly launched on its career of usefulness. Besides the three already named, the following named Brethren appear on record as Charter Members: Nathaniel Coffin, Tristram Barnard, Andrew Worth,

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\* There is a striking instance of Masonic heredity in the family of Bro. Smith, who received his Degrees in Wapping Arms Lodge in England in 1756. His son, Francis, became a member of Urbanity Lodge; his grandson, Francis, was an honored member of Union Lodge, and his great grandson, Charles F., has recently received his Degrees in Monitor Lodge, Waltham.

Samuel Barrett, George Ramsdell, Joseph Coffin, Jeremiah Buckman, Christopher Hussey, Joshua Bunker, Jethro Hussey, Seth Jenkins, Joseph Hussey, John Sherman, George Calder, Paul Hussey, Thomas Worth, Nathaniel Rand, Shubael Worth, Shubael Folger, Nathaniel Barrett and William Johnson.

The question naturally arises, where were the first three Brethren made Masons? As to Bro. Henry Smith, the first Junior Warden, the diploma now hanging on the walls of the Lodge room, an invaluable memento of the one to whom it was issued, shows that he was made a Mason at a Lodge held at the Dundee Arms, Wapping, London, England, March 15, 1762.\* Concerning Worshipful Brother Brock and Bro. Dennison, I have as yet been unable to get any information, but it is probable that they received their degrees either in England or in a Lodge in some seaport town where a Lodge had been established, and where they had been on business. The custom of the day allowed extraordinary latitude in this respect, and the rigid rules regarding jurisdictions which have long prevailed, were of little or no force then, and we find that sojourning citizens from various parts of the country received their Degrees at the hands of the Brethren of Union Lodge in its early days.†

The first codes of By-Laws of the Lodge, like those of many other Lodges of the day, were, in some particulars, quite unique. That there might be no excuse for any Brother's coming home to his wife and family at midnight and attributing his late hours to a protracted Lodge meeting, this article was adopted:—

“ARTICLE III.—As nothing has a greater tendency to bring the Craft into disrepute than keeping late hours on Lodge nights, the Master shall be acquainted by the S.W. when it is

\* There is a record (See Proceedings of Gr. Lodge of Massachusetts, 1733 to 1792, p. 423), that a Timothy Folger was present at the Feast of St. John the Baptist at the “King’s Arms,” Boston, with St. John’s Grand Lodge in 1700. It is probable it was Timothy of Nantucket. The custom of many Lodges in those days often was to open and transact general business on the Entered Apprentice Degree.

†Brothers Elisha Smith and William Coffin were Raised in South Carolina; and Brothers Joseph Coffin and Christopher Worth were Initiated Entered Apprentices in the same State.

ten o'clock from the first Monday in March to the first Monday in September ; and when it is Nine o'clock from the first Monday in September to the first Monday in March, who shall immediately proceed to Close the Lodge ; and every Brother shall forthwith leave the Lodge Room—It is hoped and expected that no Member will offend against this Law, calculated to secure the Honour and Reputation of this Lodge, to prevent uneasiness to our relatives & to preserve the Economy of Our Families."

Article VII. demanded and commanded that every Brother should practice out of the Lodge those great moral and social virtues inculcated in it, and provided that

" WHEREAS, it is found expedient for the good order and decorum of this Lodge, that every Member belonging thereto, not only behave themselves upright and on the square in the Lodge, but also conduct themselves out of the Lodge as becomes a good man and a Christian, Therefore if any Member belonging to this Lodge, shall hereafter so behave himself, as to bring scandal, or disreputation on the Craft, by leading a loose and disorderly life ; such Member so offending, shall be waited on by a Committee, to be appointed by the Lodge for that purpose, who shall treat with him concerning his misconduct ; and if he will not satisfy said committee, they shall inform him that he is to be admonished by the Master & Wardens in a Lodge duly formed ; which admonition shall be repeated three times ; and if he will not refrain his imprudence, he shall be excluded the Lodge untill he makes due submission."

Article XVIII. was also of a disciplinary character, and was as follows :

" That no Brother do presume to Swear in the Lodge or on any account call for wine or other liquors, but address himself to the stewards or wardens, who, if they think it necessary, will give their orders accordingly. That all Brethren do behave themselves with decency to each other, and respect to the Master in the chair and presiding officers ; and in case of default in either of these particulars, the Brother so offending shall forfeit the sum of two shillings to the fund of the Lodge."\*

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\* By-law V. provides that where not exceeding three black balls were cast, when balloting for a candidate, those casting them should inform the Investigating Committee so that the differences might be adjusted. If they failed to inform the Committee the ballot was declared unanimous.

By the Charter it was obligatory on the Lodge to set aside a sum for charity, and on Oct. 7, 1771, it was "Voted that each member of this Society shall pay one shilling Lawfull Money into the Fund of Charity at every Quarterly Communication." Votes relative to this matter of the Charity Fund were quite frequently passed.

October 19, 1772, the Lodge petitioned the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge to be registered on the Grand Lodge books by the name of Union Lodge No. 5, and at the Quarterly Communication of January 29, 1773, the Grand Lodge "Voted Unanimously that the Prayer of said Petition be granted."

At the Quarterly Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge in April of the same year, a letter was read from Union Lodge by its Secretary, Brother Phineas Fanning,\* in response to a request of the Grand Lodge for contributions to aid a Brother whose property had been destroyed by fire. Brother Fanning's letter said, in part :

"The Remoteness of our Situation on an Island, & the Difficulty of passing in Winter, we hope will be accepted as a sufficient Excuse for Non-attendance at the Grand Lodge according to Summons.

Our Lodge is yet in its Infancy, the Members chiefly seamen, and none of us blessed with a Fortune, our Lodge as yet not properly settled, furnished &c &c Insomuch that it is out of our Power (at present) to transmit anything to the Grand Fund, but humbly hope that Maturity and the united Efforts of our greatest Abilities will, in a short Time enable us liberally to contribute thereto.

The calamitous Circumstances of Bro. Russell we look upon well worthy of the immediate Commiseration & Assistance of every tender hearted and good Mason ; have therefore voted the Sum of £6 to the Relief of our sd. unfortunate Bro. and the same transmitted to you pr the Bearer hereof, Mr. Josp'h Roby. \* \* \*

\* Do us the Honour to Believe that ever(y) Member of this Lodge has the Honour of Masonry at Heart and will on all Occasions exert his utmost Faculties to promote the Royal Art."

A little later on Philip Bass applied to Union Lodge for assistance. As he was a resident of Boston or vicinity the Brethren of Nantucket thought his application should have the endorsement of the Grand Lodge, and Secretary Fanning so

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\* Phineas Fanning married Kezia Coffin, daughter of Kezia.

informed the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, who agreed with the principle, but added "if a Brother is known to be needy and worthy it lays with the Lodge appealed to to take action." The Brethren of Union Lodge at once replied, inclosing £3\* for Bro. Bass and £6 for the Charity Fund, the letter being so full of the true spirit of the Craft, that, by order of the Grand Lodge, the correspondence was made a matter of record.†

December 27, 1773, the Lodge celebrated the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, in accordance with the requirements of the Charter.

September 5, 1774, the Lodge voted that Fellow Crafts could be made members, unless they signified to the contrary. This seems to have been in accordance with the general lack of system common to the majority of Lodges about this time, and continuing for many years, resulting in a relaxation of the strict rules of Freemasonry. By the strict law of those days and by the invariable practice as well as law of today a Member of a Lodge must be a Master Mason; careful attention must be observed that the Lodge acting has jurisdiction over a candidate; business can be transacted in the Lodge only when it is open on the Master Mason's Degree; but one Degree could be conferred on a candidate without an intervening period of a calendar month, save by Dispensation; and but five candidates were allowed to receive a Degree in one day; but the practice of that day, and even up to a comparatively recent period, had become too lax, and the contrary action was frequent. Indeed, it was only so late as 1864 that the law regarding limiting the number of candidates to five for a Degree on one day was rigidly enforced.

On December 28, 1774, Brother Christopher Hussey, Jr., Secretary, wrote to the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary:

"I am directed agreeable to our Deputation to inform the Right Worshipfull the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, that in our Lodge preceding the Celebration of the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, we proceeded to the Election of Officers for the Year ensuing; when we made Choice of the Fol-

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\* As only the sum of £3 14s. was collected for Bro. Bass and one other at the meeting of the Grand Lodge Dec. 27, 1773, the contribution of Union Lodge was more than creditable.

† Proceedings of Grand Lodge 1733-1792, p. 207.

lowing, viz't R. W. B. Timothy Folger Esq. Master, W. Bo. Christopher Hussey Sen'r Treasurer; and George Calder, S. W., John Bearde, J. W. Nath'l Barrett, S. D., John Gardner, J. D., and Silvanus Pinkham and Jonathan Jenkins, Stewards.

On the 27th of Decemb'r we met at the Lodge Room to celebrate the Feast of St. John, from whence we proceeded in Procession to the Rev'd Mr. Shaw's Meeting House, where the Beauties of Masonry, the infinite Profit & Advantage of Brotherly Love & Unity, were learnedly, elegantly & politely displayed in a Sermon, to a numerous and respectable Audience, by our Brother Zebulon Butler,\* the Subject whereof he made, Psalm 133d, Verse 1st, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity." We then proceeded to a convenient place, where we dined together as Brethren; from whence we walked back to the Lodge Room in Masonic Procession; the whole conducted with the greatest order, decency & propriety.

We have opened a Subscription for the Grand Fund of Charity, but by reason of the precariousness of the Times have thought proper to desist from collecting any money on that head for the present. The Grand Lodge may be assured of the exertion of the utmost of our Abilities to further all such noble and generous Designs. I am also directed to inform you the number of our Members is Sixty-five; which increase very fast. God grant that neither Ambition, Lust of Power, Faction, Discontent or any other Offspring of the fatal Enemy of Masons may prevail to disunite the Hearts of Brethren, or prevent the increase of Unity, Love and Concord amongst us, or in any other manner abate the Ardour, with which I am your Affectionate Brother & hum'l Servant.

By order of the Right Worshipfull Master and Brethren,

CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY, Jun'r Sec'y.

P. S. the R. W. and Brethren doth request the favour of your inserting our Procession &c in the News Papers."

A regular attendance at the communications of the Lodge, always enjoined on all Freemasons, was particularly impressed in the early days of the Lodge, and we find by the records of August 7, 1775, that it was "Voted that Broth'r Wm. Brock, Sam'l Barrett & Chris'r Hussey be a Committee to Talk with Bro Seth Jenkins and no the Reason, if he hath any, for Absenting himself so long from the Lodge, and make their Report next Lodge night." At the following meeting Bro Jenkins was reported to still hold "himself a member with a Sincear Respect to the Craft and is Redy at all times to pay up his arrears."

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\* Rev. Bro. Butler is described in the record as "Presbyterian."

November 6, 1775, it was "Voted that Bro Josiah Coffin and Christ. Hussey Jr Doath purchase for the Lodge use a  $\frac{1}{4}$  Cask of good Tenerife Wine." In December it is recorded that Bro. Benjamin Bunker presented the Lodge with "two Complet Ivory Tipt Roles and one Ivory Mallet." These probably were the gavel of the Master and the truncheons of the Wardens.

The Feast of St. John, the Evangelist, was observed on December 27th of that year with a dinner at Bro. Josiah Coffin's at an expense of three shillings and sixpence each. The guests on that occasion, as recorded, were "Rev. Mr Shaw, Mr Josiah Coffin Esq'r, Ebenez'r Calef Esq, Mr. Geo Hussey, Mr. Jona Coffin, Mr Edward Cary, and Capt Hinmon from ye W. Indies."

At a Communication held April 1, 1776, it was "Voted that the word Intoxicated in the Article 19 in Book By Laws should be eraist out—and to Enact, and that no Bro should Presume to swear in the Lodge." It is a little uncertain whether our ancient Brethren thought swearing a greater offence than intoxication, or whether they believed there was little danger that a Brother would so far forget the duty he owed himself and the Lodge as to over-indulge in stimulants.

Cases of discipline were frequent. When Brethren had any serious differences the matters were frequently referred to the Lodge for settlement, and often were harmoniously and satisfactorily adjusted.

July 9, 1776, it was voted to attend the funeral of Brother Jethro Coffin "their to form & walk two by two in Brotherly Respect to the Deceased." This is the first record in the Lodge of a Masonic funeral.

By the latter part of 1776, we may conclude, from the record, the strain of privation because of the War began to show itself, as December 27th of that year a Committee was appointed to inquire "if their is any Bro's wife or family that wants any Releafe."

There are several instances recorded in which the Lodge voted to invest its funds in speculative ventures. Feb. 3d, 1777, a Committee was appointed to send £20 "by several Vessells over the Sea in Adventure for the Benefit of this Lodge as they should think expedient." August 4, 1777, it was voted to invest the funds in Boston "in one or more of the

Loan Office Tickets." February 27, 1778, it was voted to send a sum to the West Indies by Brother Jona. Pinkham "as an Adv'r for this Lodge."

The Lodge believed in practice as well as in preaching, as for instance on April 7, 1777, when a Committee was appointed on the petition of two French gentlemen (" Both Fellows of the Royal Craft "), mechanics, for assistance in getting a building for their work, and patronage.

May 4. 1778, "Voted that the secretary Doath wright a Letter in the Behalf of ye Lodge to Bro Nath Barber Jr in Boston to procure a man for the Releaf of Bo Andrew Brock now Prisner in New York."

In the fall of 1778, the danger of hostile incursions became so imminent that on October 5 it was "Voted, their be a Committee of 3 Brothers viz. Bros Robert Folger, Bro Paul Pinkham & Obed Bunker are Chosen to take ye Greatest care of the Chest of this Lodge & the furniture of ye same in case the Enemy is in sight of us Hear."

October 14, 1778, it was "Voted that their be a Letter wrote Down to Boston, to sum friend to liberte our Brothers being now in Captivity on board ye Prison Shipp in New York." It is evident that passive Masonry had no place in the hearts of the older Brethren of Union Lodge—they believed it was "the friend in need" who was "the friend indeed."

April 15, 1779, another Committee was appointed to take charge of the furniture "in case the enemy came." About this time several Brethren demitted as they were about to remove from the island.

The distinction in value between specie and paper money is apparent in the vote passed December 5, 1779, "that we dine on St. John's Day at Mr Ichabod Aldridges with paying 15 Paper Dolls. each, we finding our own Liquors for that use if ye have any." At the Feast on December 27, 1780, the price paid for similar entertainment was 4 shillings 6 pence hard money.\*

It is evident that when the invasion of the Town by the

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\* One kind of money seems to be described in the records as "Jibb hanks." It probably has reference to the nautical term, but in what was the similarity, and what was the value?

Enemy came the Committee was vigilant, for at the Communication of December 5, 1779, the bill of Brothers Joseph and James Coffin of 15 paper dollars for bringing the Lodge's chest from Quaise was ordered to be paid.\*

\* The records of the Society of Friends show that the following named Brethren were "disowned":—

- David Coffin, Jr., in 1780, for going to sea in a prize vessel.
- Jonathan Cartwright, in 1780, for going to sea in an armed vessel.
- Simeon Folger, in 1780, for going to sea in an armed vessel.
- Robert Folger, in 1782, for going to sea with guns.
- Reuben Gardner, Jr., in 1778, for going to sea in a prize vessel.
- Alexander Gardner, Jr., in 1782, armed vessel.
- Paul Hussey, in 1778, for going to sea in an armed vessel.
- Reuben Starbuck, in 1781, for being with armed men.

The meagreness of records makes the task of determining who of Nantucket were on America's side during the Revolution exceedingly difficult. Enough is known, however, to show that large numbers of them were taken prisoners by the English and many were adherents of the cause of the Colonies. The following facts have been ascertained regarding the Brethren of Union Lodge: William Ramsdell was mate of the armed brigantine Lucy; George Bunker was captured by an English privateer and confined on the Jersey prison ship; Benjamin Bunker was a prisoner on the same ship; John Pinkham, Jethro Hussey and Capt. Benj. Bunker were threatened with capture by the English and fled to a house out of town, armed to defend themselves; Capt. William Mooers was taken prisoner; Levi Gardner and William Cartwright were prisoners in New York on H. M. Ship Eagle; Capt. Paul Hussey was commissioned Commissary of Prisoners by the Council of Massachusetts Bay, August 16, 1777, and went to New York in the schooner Speedwell and effected the exchange of 25 American prisoners, among whom were the following members of Union Lodge: Henry Tracy and Elias Coffin; Capt. Timothy Folger and three others were bearers of important dispatches in 1776; Levi Gardner and William Cartwright were prisoners in New York in 1777 on H. M. Ship Eagle; in the list of those who loaned money to the government between 1777 and 1779, compiled by Mrs. Belle M. Draper, appear the names of Samuel Barrett, John Waterman and Shubael Worth; in the list published as part of the Third Report of the D. A. R. (56th Cong. Sen. Doc. 219) appear the names of Benjamin Barnard, Jr., Nathaniel Barrett, Matthew Baird, George Bunker, Joshua Bunker, George Calder, Jonathan Cartwright, Richard Chadwick, Jonathan Colesworthy, Benjamin Chase, Timothy Folger, Reuben Gibbs, Christopher Hussey, Christopher Hussey, Jr., Joseph Hussey, Daniel Kelly, Josiah Marshall, Jethro Myrick, John Pinkham, Jonathan Pinkham, Paul Pinkham, Henry Smith, Thomas Snow and David Squire; in the list of names published by authority of Abiah Franklin Chapter, D. A. R., in 1897, of those whose descendants were eligible to that society appear in addition the names of Benjamin Bunker, Joseph

There can be no doubt as to the patriotism of the Fraternity in Nantucket during the troublous times of the Revolution when it required courage for those so situated to be patriotic. On January 5, 1781, we find it recorded that the Lodge drank a toast "to his Excellency Geo Washington Grand Master of America." At that time the Lodge met in Brother Jethro Hussey's chambers. Where the first meetings were held is largely a matter of conjecture. Brother Henry Paddock says he was told by some of the older members, now passed away, that the Lodge met for a while in the house, recently torn down, which stood in Brock's Court, in what is known as Egypt. This building was formerly known as the "Arthur" house, but several years ago was remodelled by Mr. Thomas B. Field, into a mill, and latterly was known as the "Thomas B. Field Mill." The Lodge also met in a house which stood in the narrow way called Coal Lane, between Union and South Water streets, and just east of the office of the Wannacomet Water Co.

February 6, 1782, it is recorded "Went through the opening of the Lodge from an a prentice to a master in the new forme which is practised by sending up ye word Gripp & sign to Each steep to ye master."

During the early part of the year there had been some disturbance in the friendly relations existing between Brother Nathaniel Coffin and Worshipful Brother Timothy Folger, and the Lodge had been called on several times to adjudicate the difficulty. It evidently had become somewhat of a tax on the patience of the Brethren, for on August 7, 1782, they "Voted that the matter of Diference of Dispute in accts betwixt Brs Coffin & Folger be never more Laid before this Lodge after this; as the Lodge thinks they have done all they could consistant to order the same."

On April 7, 1783, it was voted that visitors withdraw "when

Coffin, Nathaniel Coffin, Elias Coffin, James Chase 2d, John Gardner, Thomas Gardner, Jr., Jethro Hussey, Christopher Hussey, Seth Jenkins, John Ramsdell, David Ray, Christopher Worth and Andrew Worth.

Information regarding the War of 1812 is more meagre yet. The sloop Yankee, Capt. Paddock, was taken by the English and recaptured by Capt. Daniel Hussey. Charles Hillburn, the pilot on the Prince of Neufchatel, was the first one of her crew killed in her fight with the British frigate Endymion in 1814.

any Business concerning this Lodge or any member is call'd in question. \* \* \* Except it be by a Dispensation by the master & two thirds of the members present."

The record of September 1, 1783, says : "The Committee chosen Last Setting to Treat w'h Br Wm Worth, report that the Adv'r which Br Worth Carred out was Laid out in flour & was Taken & Lost."

On July 2, 1787, it was "Voted that there be a Flagg made for the Lodge use to be hoisted on Lodge days on Top of the House where the Lodge is held."

"Voted a Committee to git the above Flagg made at ye Lodge Expence & to there best judgement. Bros William Coffin, Christ'r Hussey, Abner Coffin, assisted by Joseph Coffin & Zebulon Butler to Compleated by next mo & sett the day before Lodge Night."

Angust 6, 1787, it is recorded : "The Flagg made & sett this Day for the intended purpass of notifying the Brethers that it is Lodge Night."

At the Feast of St. John, December 27, 1787, Mrs. Margaret Coffin furnished the dinner at 2 shillings each ; 18 Brothers and 4 visitors dined.

April 2, 1792, the Lodge elected to receive the Degrees "Edw'd D. Burke a schoolmaster from Ireland, Residing in this Town at present."

Illustrative of the custom of this time to take candidates irrespective of residence, as well as of a departure from the strict practice of today as to payment for the Degrees the record of August 6, 1792, may be cited. It says : "A candidate Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is Postponed from this Night to Lo k into his carater, if found good & he will call a Lodge at his Ex-pense to be at Voted the Sectary Looks into the above candidate & proceeds according as he may find either calls ye Lodge or let it pass & to see his Spirrits be good which he offers in pay for his Initiation."\*

The occasional entry on the records of the purchase of "skins for aprons" shows our ancient Brethren bought the lamb-skins whole and made their aprons from them, instead of purchasing them all made, as is the present practice.

March 4, 1793, the Lodge impowered Brother Benjamin

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\* Masonic law of today requires cash in hand rather than promissory notes or barter.

Walcutt to purchase of Alexander Gardner his new store on the best terms for the Lodge.. Arrangements were made by which the Lodge purchased the building, paying \$200 on the delivery of the deed, and \$200 annually until \$400 and interest were paid. This store, Brother Paddack says, was located on Washington street, near the site now used as a stable.\*

April 1, 1793, the Lodge voted to have an Iron Stove for the new Lodge room, and July 1 met in its new quarters for the first time. September 2 it was "Voted that the Lodge should pay unto Bo Jethro Hussey six Dollars for his Labour & Stuff to Pennell the Lodge Chamber all around ye Room in Good order and as high up as is Necessary & as soon as he conveniently can Compleat s'd Work & the Paper to be on before ye next Lodge."

December 4, 1793, the Lodge passed a vote of thanks "to Bro Sam'l Barker Jr for a pair of Decanters & a straw of Glasses." On the 27th of the same month it was "Voted the Thanks of ye Lodge to be Return'd to Mr Edw'd Cary by Bo Sam'l Barrett, for a stick of Timber for the Pillows of s'd Lodge." To those not familiar with Masonic nomenclature it may be explained that what is meant is the three pillars of the Lodge at the stations of the Master and Wardens.

June 2, 1794, the Lodge passed unanimously a vote of thanks "to Brother Timothy Horsfield for a Generous Present of a Fountain Lamp."

September 7, 1795, the Secretary was instructed to send to Philadelphia or New York for an iron stove, without pipe, and about the size of the present one. This stove was delivered and installed in time for the November communication. We may perhaps infer that stoves were not in such demand at that time as to warrant any merchant in keeping any considerable stock.

The Brethren continued to keep diligent watch that those things which were intended for the purposes of refreshment were not converted into vehicles of intemperance and excess, and November 2, 1795, a Committee was appointed to confer with Bro. — — — "respecting his misconduct in abusing himself with making use two freely of Strong Drink." At the

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\* There was a store on the ground floor, occupied at various times by Albert Gardner, Timothy Horsfield, Thomas Coffin, Jr., Micajah Coffin & Sons, and again by Timothy Horsfield.

communication of December 14, the Brother denied that he was intoxicated, but was "taken with cramp & could prove it" to the satisfaction of the Committee. If anyone has fondly imagined that suggestion was a recent invention the records of Union Lodge prove its use over a century ago. Verily, "there is nothing new under the sun."

July 4, 1796, it is recorded that the Lodge paid Brother John Pinkham for "bill for the Officers Ribbons," £4.18.0. These probably were the regalia collars for the officers. November 7 of the same year it was "Voted the Thanks of the Lodge to Bro'r Wilson Rawson for a hansom Cup presented this Night by him with the mason's Armes on it." At the Feast of St. John the Evangelist that year the dinner was served in the Lodge room by Mrs. Lydia Long, formerly the Widow Coleman, at 6 shillings each. The oration was delivered in the Presbyterian meeting-house by Brother Leonard, and it was voted to have the address printed.\*

Union Lodge was not exempt from the exceeding ill-feeling and acrimony stirred up over the robbery of the Nantucket Bank, and which so thoroughly permeated insular life for many years, but prompt and diplomatic measures were taken to suppress any participation of the Lodge as an organization in any part of the unfortunate affair, for in January, 1797, in the matter of a complaint of Brother Jethro Hussey against Brother Abner Coffin, it is recorded that "The Committee reports that they have treated with the above named Brothers & heard all that could be said by them on the subject. We cannot think that this Lodge hath anything to do with disputes on Bank matters."

April 5, 1797, a Committee was appointed to "Treat with Bro Sam'l Calder who has Lately come to the Island from his Captivity" and see if he needs relief.

The record of September 4, 1797, says: "A Letter from Bro Paul Rever of Boston dated 27 Angus informing us of our situation in the Grand Lodge as being Look on as a Clandestine Lodge by us Held, by not acting consistent to the Regulations of the G. Lodge. the above Letter was Read to ye Lodge & under consideration Voted for the Secretary to Right Bro Paul Reveal on the Receipt of his Letter informing him

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\* One hundred and fifty copies were printed, of which Rev. Bro. Leonard received 100 and the Lodge 50.

that further Order will be taken by the Lodge hereafter. Voted a committee to Look into the above Letter and to frame an answer for the purpass to be sent forward to the Grand Lodge, after the approbation of ye Lodge next month.\*

On October 2, the Committee reported a letter saying in substance that Union Lodge did not care "to become a part of the Grand Lodge for a Number of Reasons to us." This letter was read twice and then ordered to be sent.

Briefly stated, this was the situation: St. John's Grand Lodge, under which Union Lodge was chartered, was instituted in 1733, under authority of the Grand Lodge of England. An unfortunate, and for a time a serious, schism arose among the Masons of the Mother country soon after 1750, the seceders claiming a more strict adherence to the old landmarks and calling themselves Ancient Masons, and terming the adherents of the parent Lodge Moderns. In this country the sympathizers with the so-called Ancients organized the Massachusetts Grand Lodge in 1769, under authority of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The lines between the rival Grand Lodges in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay were sharply drawn, and for a long time they refused to have any intercourse with each other. Soon after the close of the Revolutionary War the desirability of having but one Grand Lodge became so apparent that in 1792 the union of the two was effected, under the name of "The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient & Hon'ble Society of Free & Accepted Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." Our Most Worshipful Brother Paul Revere, before the union, was a prominent member of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, and it seems quite evident that the feeling against that Grand Lodge and its adherents was a long time in subsiding with the Brethren of Union Lodge.

Those Lodges that did not view with favor the union naturally were lax in paying their dues, and in June, 1793, the Grand Secretary was directed to write to those Lodges that were in arrears and impress upon them the necessity of immediate payment. September 9, 1795, a Committee was appointed

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\* Several Falmouth Brethren desired a Warrant for a Lodge, and, in accordance with the provisions of the Grand Constitutions, asked the recommendation of Union Lodge. The Nantucket Brethren declined to act on account of their non-affiliation with the Grand Lodge, and sent a letter to the Falmouth Brethren explaining the situation.

to write to the Lodges that were still delinquent, and inform them that any Lodge not represented in the Grand Lodge and in arrears more than twelve months shall have no Masonic standing in the Commonwealth. This, of course, carried with it the deprivation of any right to visit or to be visited, and virtually was Masonic excommunication. On March 13, 1797, three Lodges still holding aloof, the Grand Lodge, with an extreme leniency, "Voted that a Committee be appointed to write to the Lodges held at Marblehead, Nantucket and Truro." The Committee appointed were the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Paul Revere, and Brothers Dunn, Dennis and Edwards. Evidently it was this letter that was referred to in the records of Union Lodge of September 4 and October 2.

September 13, 1797, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge passed this vote: "The Grand Lodge will not hold Communication or correspondence with or admit as Visitors any Masons residing in this State \* \* \* who do not by their Representatives, communicate, and pay their Dues to this Grand Lodge."

Whether the various means of lighting the apartments had proved unsatisfactory or not is uncertain, but August 15, 1798, it was voted to put ventilators in the east side of the Hall chamber, and to fix the windows to drop two or three inches on the west and north sides, and September 3 it was "Voted That the Lodge is for the futer supployed with spalm candles."

In 1799 some of the Brethren appear to have been imbued with a spirit of frivolity which the majority did not approve, for October 7 of that year the Lodge "Voted that the Hall be made no use of for any other purpose but for Masonry."

The following interesting vote is recorded under date of January 6, 1800, "A Committee of 5 Brothers to strike out some mode a shewing a Respect to our Deceas'd Bro Gen'l Geo Washington & to report on ye adjournment for approbation," Bros. William Coffin, Benjamin Walcut, Wilson Rawson, Edward Cary, Jr., and Josiah Coffin, Esq., were appointed. There is no way of knowing what the report was, for it is not on record, but on the following evening it was read and amended by adding that besides putting the Master's chair in mourning, those of the Wardens should also be draped, at the expense of the Lodge; "and that Each Brother to have his own

Expence of Dicoration." On the same evening it was "Voted that the Eye be painted over the West Doar and the words set in Lattin, God said let there be Light and there was Light." The Lodge continued in mourning until April.

September 7, 1801, "Voted the Thanks of the Lodge to our absent Bro'r Henry Barnard for two Cream Collard Pitchers Lettered Nantucket Union Lodge No. 5 sent to us."

At this date the differences with the Grand Lodge had not yet been harmonized. Some further communication must have been received by our Nantucket Brethren, but what it was does not appear either by the records of the Grand Lodge or those of Union Lodge. Under date of November 2, 1801, we find the following recorded by the local body—"This Lodge is clos'd to thursday night next for the purpass of investigating the matter on the Grand Lodge Regulations." At the meeting on Thursday evening it was "Voted, that we come under the direction & inspection of the Grand Lodge in Boston, Voted a Committee of 3 Brothers viz William Coffin, Benj'n Walcutt & Edw'd Cary Jr is the committee to Draw a Letter to said Grand Lodge the same to be Deliv'd & carred Forw'd by Bro Benj'n Walcutt and to see what is Necessary to be done for this union Lodge No. 5, coming under the direction of ye G'd Lodge." On the 27th of the same month the Lodge heard the report of its Committee and directed the Secretary to send a list of the officers and the number of members to the Grand Lodge.

The records of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge f r December 14, 1801, say: "A petition from the Officers and Members of Union Lodge No. 1 at Nantucket, under a Charter granted by the M. Worshipful John Rowe, former Grand Master—was prefer'd to this Grand Lodge for a Union therewith by submitting to its Jurisdiction—and also praying that their Charter may be endorsed confirming the same: The meritts and design of the same being fairly discussed & materially consider'd it was—Voted—unanimously to grant the prayer of the Petitioners." Thus after nearly ten years sojourning in the Wilderness the Brethren again were gathered into the Promised Land. At its Communication of February 18, 1802, Union Lodge passed a vote of thanks to Brother Samuel W. Hunt for his assistance in getting the Charter endorsed by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, and appointed

him Proxy to represent the Lodge at the Communications of the Grand Lodge, and on March 8, Bro. Hunt was formally recognized as such at the Quarterly Communication of the Grand body. In that capacity he presented at that time a petition from the Brethren of Union Lodge, "praying that the name of that Lodge, lately designated by the Grand Master as No. 1 may be changed to No. 5," which prayer was granted.\*

On March 13, 1802, the Lodge "Voted that we purchase the piece of land between Esq'r Hammatts & Doct Gelston's houses, belonging to Wm. Rotch, for which he asks \$1200." It was also voted to build a Mason's hall on the said land. This was the location just west of the Pacific Bank building, and the building now standing there is the one which was erected. On the 24th of June following, at 12 o'clock Noon, the Lodge laid the corner-stone for the new building with appropriate Masonic services, and following the ceremony forty-two Brethren observed the day, which was the anniversary of the Feast of St. John the Baptist, with a dinner. †

December 27, 1802, the Lodge marched to the Congregational meeting-house, where a sermon was preached by Rev. James Gurney, which proved so satisfactory that, on February 10 following, the Lodge voted to present him a "beaver hatt for his services on the 27th of December Last."

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\* It is not clear at this time why Union Lodge was numbered 1, as there were several which had precedence in age, at least nine in Massachusetts under the united Grand Lodges. In September (10) 1804, however, at a Quarterly Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, a Committee reported that on account of great inconveniences having arisen through numerical arrangement of Lodges, "that all Numbers now existing in the designation of Lodges shall be abolished." This report was unanimously accepted.

† Those present were "R. W. Master James Coffin, Sen'r Warden Richard Cary, Jun'r Wdn. Sam'l Cary, Treas. Wm. Coffin, Secr. Peter Hussey, Sen'r Deacon Benj'n Brown, Jun'r Deacon John Hammatt, Stewards John Pinkham & John Gardner, Tyler John Bunker, Robert Folger, David Worth, David Swain, John Monroe, Abisha Lambert, Nicholas Meader, Nath'l Barrett, E. Cary, Jun'r, Uriah Bunker, John Brown, Wm. Brown, Shubael Coffin, Zopher Hayden, Andrew Coleman, Timo Folger, John Brock, Jr., Daniel Allen, Hugh Wyer, Josiah Coffin, Jethro Hussey, Jonathan Mooers, Able Rawson, John Fitch, Henry Riddle, Hoziah Roberts, Sam'l Barker, John Allen, Benj. Coffin, Caleb Bunker, Benj'n Slade, Josiah Barker. Jun'r, Joseph C. Smith." The new hall was insured for \$1200. In the records of the early part of 1804 a Mr. Buel and Bro. Josiah Clarke are spoken of as schoolmasters.

The records of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge for December 10, 1804, show that 'Union Lodge was in the 12th Masonic District, and that Right Worshipful William Coffin was commissioned its first District Deputy Grand Master.

November 4, 1805, it was "Voted that the Image on top of the Hall be painted & where the water Issues through be putt'd;" also voted "the Corner stone be removed out into full View." On the 21st of the same month it was voted to have Rev. Mr. Gurney preach the sermon on St. John's day, and to have music in the procession, if any could be had; also to have a new carpet painted.\* On St. John's day, Rev. Mr. Gurney, then Rev. Brother Gurney, preached the sermon. Members of Washington Remembered Lodge of New Bedford, which was instituted the previous summer, were present by invitation, and the dinner was participated in by sixty-five Brethren.

There seems about this time to have arisen a question as to whether candidates in taking the obligations must be sworn, or could be allowed to affirm. The Grand Lodge records of March 10, 1806, referring to this subject, say: "A motion was brought forward by R. W. Henry M. Lisle, to ascertain this question, 'Whether an *affirmation* by that part of Society which profess the Religion of the Quakers, or Friends, if to be admitted into a Lodge, would be conceived by the Gd. Lodge equal to the Oaths & Obligations usually administer'd at a Making, which after much Conversation and canvassing was concluded to be equally so; but for reasons adduced, it was on motion Voted, to be most eligible to refer the Subject, for farther consideration, to the next Q'y Communication.'" June 9 it was voted to submit the question to "M. W. Timothy Bigelow, R. W. Simon Elliot, and such of the R. W. District Deputy Grand Masters as can be most readily consulted, and that they Report to the Grand Lodge—soon as may be." At the Quarterly Communication September 8 the following action was taken: "In pursuance of a vote of the G'd Lodge at the last Q'y Communication submitting the Question to his decision, it pleased the M. W. G'd Master to give his Opinion—that with respect to such Candidates, for Initiation and other Degrees, as have conscientious Scruples about taking an *Oath* the act of *Affirmation* is equally Valid as Swearing, in

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\* Referring to what is Masonically known as the "Master's Carpet."

receiving the Obligations of Masonry." There were very few Lodges in Massachusetts affected by this decision, none to anything like the degree that Union Lodge was.

May 5, 1806, the Lodge "Voted, their be a Committee of five to looke into the business respecting Br Chris Folgers confinement in France & see what measures will be best to procure his Liberty." "Voted Br Wm Coffin, Rich'd Cary, James Gurney, Jethro Hussey & Benj Bunker be of this Committee." "Voted, the Committee above proceed with Br Peleg Bunker as with Br Folger."

In November of the same year some kind friend or Brother presented the Lodge with a chandelier to take the place "of Lamp now hanging."

The boys of the day must in their generation have been quite as mischievous as those of the present, for on December 4, 1806, it was "Voted that Mr Ebnr Fitch be Requested to take Care of the Boys on St. John's day."

The question of refreshments was one which seemed to be a source of considerable anxiety. In accordance with the almost universal custom of the time, some kind of spirituous liquor usually formed a portion of the repast. The difficulty arose mainly from the tendency of a few to indulge themselves beyond the point of temperance. In 1807, a Committee consisting of Right Worshipful John Brock, then District Deputy Grand Master, Rev. Brother James Gurney, Worshipful Brother Timothy Folger, Brother William Cobb and Worshipful Brother Peter Hussey, was appointed to consider the subject, and on March 5 they made their report, which recommended "Refreshments of wine, Spirits, Crackers and Cheese on Each Regular Lodge Night,—any former Vote to the Contrary notwithstanding ; each member to pay 25 cents each regular Lodge night ; each visiting Brother to pay 37½ cents each night "provided they Stay at the Lodge untill Called from Labour to Refreshment"; no member or visitor to be admitted into the Steward's room (except the Stewards) "on any" pretence whatever." This report was accepted and adopted.

June 1, 1807, the Lodge "Voted, that there be two paper blinds put at the North windows below."

June 24. "Voted, that those gentlemen that petitioned to meet at this Hall on the 4th of July to form their prossession be Admitted."

September 7. Brother John Gardner was made the first Honorary Member.

December 7, the Lodge refused for obvious reasons to allow an Evening School in the Hall.

February 12, 1808, the Lodge voted to attend the funeral of their late Brother, Jethro Hussey, the following day.

October 28, 1808, "Voted that there be no Song Sung in the Lodge on Lodge Meeting Except a Masonack Song." "Voted that there be three Books purchased for the use of the Lodge that Contains the best Selections of Masonac Songs."

December 27, 1809, Rev. Brother Seth F. Swift delivered the address appropriate to the day in the "New South Congregational Meeting House.\* It is recorded that after the exercises and dinner, the members "Sung a Song Told a Story and Injoyed our Selves with a glass of wine and a pipe of Tobacco, then Cal'd to Labour and Instol'd the officers."

April 6, 1810, Voted to allow the Committee of the New South Congregational Church the use of "the Lodge Room to Dine in on the Day that Brother Swift is ordained."

The record of August 20, 1810, has a particularly educational interest. On that occasion it was "Voted that the Report of the Committee that was chosen the Last Lodge Night† to draw up Sum plan Respecting the appropriation of the Schools Rooms be Accepted which is as follows,—that a Certain Number of Members of this Lodge has Subscribed to form an Assosiation to found a free Masons Schools the Rules of which is to be Sanctioned by the Lodge that it may be De-nomanated a free Masons School. Voted, that when the Association has fixt on the Rules and Regulations of S'd School and have them Approbated by the Lodge then the Standing Committee that was Chosen to have the Care of Letting S'd Schools Rooms be Instructed to give the above Association the preference of s'd Rooms for the Same Rent as they are

\*Rev. Bro. Seth F. Swift was Raised Jan. 1, 1810. The bill of fare on St. John's Day, 1809, was "Plum, Apple and plain puddings; Baked, boiled and corned beef, legs of pork, Ham, Tongue, Roast Turkey, Ducks, chickens and Shoat; Vegetables and pickles suitable. Table drinks Beer and Cider." The expense was 5 shillings 6 pence each.

† Bros. Seth F. Swift, Wm. Nichols, Wm. Coffin, John Brock, Jr., and Wyer Swain.

Now Rented for Accept it Should be a Vote of the Lodge to alter." There is no further reference to this subject in the Lodge records, and we are left in the dark as to how the enterprise terminated.

December 27, 1810, the discourse was delivered by Brother Cyrus Peirce, the first High School teacher on Nantucket, and prayers were offered by Rev. Brothers Gurney and Swift. The dinner was furnished by Miss Ann Hatch at \$1.00 each.

Early in 1811, it was voted that the Trustees of the School Room be allowed the use of the Hall for an exhibition February 22. Whether this was commemorative of Washington's Birthday or merely a coincidence does not appear.

August 5, 1811, a meeting was "Cal'd for the purpose of Granting a Donation to a brother mason by the Name of John Rose from Germany who petitioned on account of Relieving Sum Brother Masons in Algiers."\*

March 8, 1820, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Samuel P. P. Fay, in stating the condition of all the Lodges in the jurisdiction, said—"In the 12th Masonic District there are but two Lodges only, "Union" at Nantucket, and "King Solomons in Perfection" Holmes Hole, the former highly respectable in its Character and punctual in all its engagements to the Grand Lodge."

Soon after this, about 1827, the Anti-Masonic crusade began, occasioned by the always unexplained disappearance of a dissolute man named Morgan. Nantucket did not escape that frenzy which drew into its vortex men of all classes and opinions, and which even became a dominating factor in partisan politics. Brother Samuel H. Jenks vigorously fought the cal-

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\* Among the votes passed by the Lodge about this time was one in Dec. 6, 1813, for a Committee chosen to "have the Care of the School Rooms to Let them and Collect the Rent also to manage the Water Closet and have a Conductor in the Same." (This is noted as being an early use of this term.) Aug. 6, 1819, Recommendation for Seven Stars Lodge to be held at Edgartown. Dec. 6, 1819, Granting the use of the Hall to the First Cong'l Society to dine in Dec. 15. Mar. 20, 1829, Leasing the East School Room to the Franklin School Assoc'n one quarter at \$25 per year, Mar. 1, 1820, making Samuel H. Jenks a member "free of expense." Bro. Jenks had presented the Lodge with a portrait of Thomas S. Webb.

The records mention Rev. Bro. John W. Hardy (Methodist) in 1818. Rev. Bro. Eph. Randall in 1819, and Rev. Nathan Brown Ashcroft being mentioned for the Degrees in 1820.

umnious statements made against Freemasonry through the columns of the Nantucket Inquirer, but many a Lodge surrendered its Charter, and many a timid Mason hid his colors when the storm raged most fiercely. For several years prior to 1832 Union Lodge suffered a steady loss in its membership, although it continued to be represented in the Grand Lodge by its proxy, Right Worshipful Brother David Parker, of Boston.\* For several years following 1831 no District Deputy Grand Masters were appointed for several districts, among which was the 12th, in which Union Lodge was apportioned. March 5, 1832, a proposition was made to amend the Lodge By-Laws so as to provide for quarterly instead of monthly Communications. The following year, November 4, 1833, it was voted to "raise a committee to take into consideration the situation of the Lodge property, with liberty to take legal advice on the subject and report at some future meeting, and that the committee be further authorized to recommend such disposition of the property as they may deem desirable." The Committee reported December 19 of the same year. What that report recommended cannot now be ascertained, but, whatever it was, it was rejected by a vote of 7 to 5, the smallness of the vote being an eloquent testimony of the extremity to which the Lodge was reduced in its membership. Continued attempts were made to arrange the Lodge's affairs to prepare for any possible contingency, and finally on the 8th of December, 1835, the real estate was conveyed conditionally to the Trustees of the Coffin School. At the same time the By-Laws were amended so to provide for annual Communications instead of monthly ones.†

The Lodge continued paying its dues to the Grand Lodge, as appears from the records. At the Quarterly Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge March 10, 1841, a petition purporting to come from the Lodge was presented asking for a remission of the dues. This was referred to a Committee who, on June 9, reported that the petition seems to have emanated from a Brother individually, and without the author-

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\* Freemasonry was at a very low ebb at this time all over the country. For a particular statement see the "History of Free Masonry and Concordant Orders."

† The Lodge continued to meet annually until Feb. 7, 1842.

ity of the Lodge, and, on recommendation of the Committee, no further action was taken on it.

But the transfer of the real estate belonging to the Lodge to the Trustees of the Coffin School did not pass unnoticed by the Grand Lodge. The transfer does not seem to have received any attention from the Grand Lodge until after the Great Fire of 1846. Soon after the disposition of their property the Lodge removed to a room in the old Athenæum building, occupying these quarters from May, 1835, until the building was destroyed in the Great Fire. The records show that on July 22, 1846, a Communication was held, said to have been called in their former quarters west of the Bank, then occupied by the Odd Fellows. The record goes on to say—"On motion of Bro Elisha Starbuck—Voted that we address the Gr Lodge, stating to them our situation, and praying for relief, and request them to grant us a Charter, as ours was burned at the late Fire. On motion of Bro. John Brock—Voted that we raise a Committee to draft a memorial to the Gr. Lodge stating to them the condition of Union Lodge. Voted that Bros. Sam'l H. Jenks, Chas Brown and Benj Brown be the above committee. Voted to adjourn to this place tomorrow evening at half past seven o'clock."\*

"At an adjourned meeting of Union Lodge held on Thursday evening July 23, 1846, \* \* \* Rec'd and acted on the report of the committee that was chosen last evening to memorialize the Gr. Lodge. Closed at 9 o'clock."

The Memorial was as follows :

*"To the officers and members of the M. W. Gr. Lodge of the State of Massachusetts—*

This memorial of the officers and members of Union Lodge in Nantucket respectfully represents that in consequence of the late dreadful calamity, by which a large portion of the business part of the town has been reduced to ashes ; the members aforesaid feel it incumbent on them to lay before your Most Worshipful body a statement of our losses, and implore

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\* The Lodge was opened and the business transacted on the Entered Apprentice Degree. From July 22, 1846, until Nov. 2 the Lodge met in its former hall, west of the Pacific Bank building, then occupied by the Odd Fellows. Then it was removed into the hall in the building of the Commercial Insurance Co. In Jan., 1863, it was again removed to Sherburne Hall on Center street, and in 1890 it removed once more, occupying its present quarters.

such aid as you in your sympathy may find it proper to bestow; and first as regards our Lodge ; the room in which we met and which we had fitted up at an expense of some four hundred dollars, was wholly destroyed with all its contents, having been unable to save anything except our Records and Jewels ; again a large portion of our members are directly sufferers by the Fire to a greater or less degree, some losing their whole property and being literally turned into the streets—We therefore request that you will grant us a renewal of our Charter, for unless we continue to meet stately as Union Lodge, we shall be liable to use what funds we have, and which are so invested that if the Lodge becomes extinct they will pass beyond our reach and control.\* We would further ask such pecuniary aid as you may feel disposed to grant—however small will be most gratefully received by your afflicted brethren.

In behalf of Union Lodge, Nantucket

SAMUEL H. JENKS	}	Committee
BENJ BROWN		
CHARLES BROWN		

P. S. It is requested that an answer may be sent immediately as we wish authority to work until our Charter may be renewed, which bore date A. L. 5771."

This petition was presented to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication in September and referred to a Committee consisting of Bros. Hammatt, Bradford, Rogers, Loring and Hobart, who reported verbally in favor of granting a new Charter, but asked for more time to more fully consider the subject, which was granted. At the Annual Communication, December 9, still further time was given. On March 10, 1847, the Committee made the following report, which was adopted :

"The Com to whom was referred the petition of Union Lodge, Nantucket, have since the last report examined into the affairs of said Lodge and find that during the dark period of Anti-Masonic excitement, they were the owners of a building valued at about \$2,000, which was held by Trustees.

In 1833 the number of Trustees was reduced to two, and the number of the members of the Lodge was greatly diminished. Very justly apprehending that in case the surviving Trustees should be taken away, or the Lodge be disbanded their interest in the building would be lost to the Fraternity—and there being no power in the Gr. Lodge to hold real estate, the breth-

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\* See report of Committee of the M. W. Grand Lodge, March 10, 1857.

ren came to the conclusion, after mature deliberation, that they should best discharge their duty, by conveying the property to the Coffin School Corporation—This was accordingly done in Dec. 1835, and in terms which your Com. believe to be just and equitable.

The Lodge relinquishes to the School, one fourth part of the interest arising from the funds, for and in consideration of the privilege of admission to the School, of the orphan children of deceased Masons on the Island, on the same terms as the children of the Coffin family are received, and the Trustees of the School further engage to pay to the Lodge the remaining three fourths of the interest arising from the funds—So far all is well—But the Lodge has gone one step farther, and made the Coffin School Corporation the residuary legatee in case the Lodge should ever be disbanded. This places the funds forever beyond the reach of the Gr Lodge, and here is the great error of the transaction.

The Lodge did not masonically or morally possess the right to make such a conveyance. It was done in violation of established Masonic usage, and meets with the severest reprobation of your Com.

They are however disposed to believe, that if the Lodge had been correctly informed on the subject, or if there had been a written provision in the then Constitution of the G. Lodge, the offending brethren would not have been guilty of so flagrant a violation of their Masonic obligations.

Your Com. are therefore disposed to regard it as a sin of ignorance, rather than of perverseness, and as such to overlook it. They would require *repentance*, were it possible for the offenders to manifest that in a restitution of the property to its legitimate source—but this cannot now be done. They therefore recommend that the Lodge be permitted to retain its Charter, until otherwise ordered by this G. Lodge.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

JOHN B. HAMMATT,\*  
C. B. ROGERS,  
ENOCH HOBART,  
JOHN J. LORING."

Reading between the lines, and remembering that the offence was committed only after securing what was presumed to be sound advice, and really seems after all to be admittedly an *ex post facto* one, we may reasonably infer that the strong language was rather as a preventive of future acts than as a censure of what already had occurred.

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\* R. W. Bro. Hammatt was for several years proxy for Union Lodge in the Grand Lodge. He became Junior and Senior Grand Warden, and in 1844 was Deputy Grand Master.

For several years special Deputies were appointed for some Lodges instead of District Deputies, as the Lodges retaining their Charters were few and scattered. Right Worshipful Brother Benjamin Brown, for several years a District Deputy, was assigned to this duty for Union Lodge, and served in that capacity from 1850 until 1857, when the office was abolished.\*

In 1856 the Lodge had begun to recover from the effects of the Anti-Masonic crusade, and that year there were six Initiates. During the following year Most Worshipful John T. Heard, Grand Master, visited every chartered Lodge in Massachusetts. He visited Union Lodge July 4, and reported that on that occasion there were present "Bro. Brown and 27 Brethren." This was very nearly the full strength of the Lodge at the time.† December 14, Right Worshipful Isaac P. Seavey, Special Grand Lecturer, visited the Lodge. He reported that he remained there five days giving instructions "with good success, though more lecturing here would be beneficial." December 18, 1858, Right Worshipful Sylvester Baxter, District Deputy Grand Master for the 8th District, reported,—"Union Lodge, Nantucket, are in fair circumstances, so far as I can learn; they have been gaining of late, and I think if they would take a little more interest in the affairs of the Lodge, and be sure to be represented in the Grand Lodge, they would become highly prosperous. Their initiations have been three the past year." In December, 1859, Right Worshipful Brother Baxter reported: "I commence with Union Lodge, of Nantucket, it being the oldest Lodge in my District.

\* The early District Deputy Grand Masters to Union Lodge were: 1804-5-6, Wm. Coffin; 1807 to 1812, John Brock; 1813-14-15, Peter Hussey; 1816-17, Nathaniel Barrett; 1818-19-20, Hezekiah B. Gardner; 1821, Seth F. Swift; 1822 to 1825, Elisha Starbuck; 1826-7, Samuel H. Jenks. The Lodge was represented nearly every year in the Grand Lodge, though not at every communication, some Boston Brother usually being chosen as proxy. The representatives as recognized by the Grand Lodge, as appears by the records, were: 1802, Bro. Samuel Wells Hunt; 1804-4, Bro. John Brock; 1805 to about 1811, Bro. John B. Hammatt; 1812 to '15, Rev. Bro. Seth Foster Swift; 1816 to 1819, Bro. Joshua Simonds; 1820, Bro. Samuel H. Jenks; 1821 to '41, Bro. David Parker; 1848, Bro. George M. Thacher; 1851, Bro. William C. Starbuck; 1853-1-5, Bro. Hugh H. Tuttle; 1857, Bro. Thomas Restieaux; 1861, Bro. Benjamin Brown; 1862, Bro. A. J. Morton.

† The total membership Dec., 1857, was 47.

There are but six older Lodges in the State, in fact, the date of its charter being 1771. It is in a good, healthy condition ; has had fourteen initiates this last year."

July 17, 1863, the Lodge was particularly favored, receiving as guests the Most Worshipful Grand Master William Parkman, accompanied by Right Worshipful Brothers Charles C. Dame, Deputy Grand Master ; Charles W. Moore, Recording Grand Secretary; Bro. Gardner, District Deputy Grand Master for the 3d District ; Bro. Stratton, Grand Marshal; and Bro. Gay, Grand Tyler.

The next important event in the history of Union Lodge and the one which concludes this narration of it, occurred in 1871, when it celebrated with much pomp and circumstance its 100th anniversary. On that occasion was organized a Lodge of Sorrow for the deceased Brethren, an extremely rare Masonic event.\*

The first attempted break from the parent Lodge occurred July 1, 1820, when the records of Union Lodge reported as follows : " Read the Petition of the Under named Brethren to the Grand Lodge of Mass. to form a Lodge in this Town by the name of Pacific. R. W. Josiah Hussey 1st Master ; W.

\* The Secretaries of Union Lodge have been: William Johnson, from organization to Jan. 1772; Phineas Fanning, from Jan. 1772 to Jan. 1775; Christopher Hussey, from Jan. 1775 to Jan. 1794; Abner Coffin, from Jan. 1794 to Jan. 1795; Christopher Hussey, Jr., from Jan. 1795 to Jan. 1802; Peter Hussey, from Jan. 1802 to Dec. 1804; John Brock, Jr., from Dec. 1804 to Jan. 1807; James Coffin, from Jan. 1807 to Jan. 1816; Benjamin Coffin (died in office), from Jan. 1816 to May 1816; James F. Chase, from May 1816 to Jan. 1849; Charles P. Swain, from Jan. 1849 to Jan. 1883; Almon T. Mowry, from Jan. 1883 to Jan. 1884; Henry Paddate, from Jan. 1884 to date.

The following named Clergymen have been members of the Lodge: Zebulon Butler, James Gurney, Seth F. Swift, David Leonard, Nathan B. Ashcroft, Henry Lincoln, Noah Disbrow, Samuel H. Brayton, Walter R. Gardner, Charles E. Walker, James B. Morrison.

As nearly as can be ascertained, this list comprises all the members of Union Lodge who participated in the War of the Rebellion : Charles H. Baker, Franklin T. Baker, Daniel C. Brayton, Albion K. P. Bucknam, George G. Coffin, Henry F. Coffin, Peter F. Coffin, Benjamin C. Easton, John B. Enas, Henry F. Fisher, William R. Hathaway, Albert B. Holmes, Edward B. Hussey, George N. Macy, John G. Mitchell, Richard Mitchell, Jr., Alexander P. Moore, David Morrow, Benjamin B. Pease, Charles F. Russell, Anthony Smalley, Francis B. Smith, John W. Summerhays, William H. Swain.

George F. Bunker, 1st S. W.; W. Sewall Short, 1st J. W.; Roswell Lebrett, Henry M. Pinkham, Wm. P. Stanton, Wm. Coffin, Jun'r, Elnathan Gibbs and George Parker." The probabilities are that this petition failed to receive the required endorsement of Union Lodge, and hence was not presented to the Grand Lodge. The records of Union Lodge say further, under date of July 6, 1820, "The Petition of Josiah Hussey and others to the Grand Lodge to form a New Lodge in this Town is with Drawn."

The first real secession from the Lodge occurred in 1822. The recorded proceedings, so far as appears in the Grand Lodge records, are these: "March 13, 1822. \* \* \* The Petition of Samuel H. Jenks and seven others for a new Lodge in the Town of Nantucket by the name of Urbanity was read," and committed. The Committee on the same day, through its chairman, Right Worshipful Paul Dean, reported "that it is expedient the Prayer of the Petitioners be granted."

This petition must have had at least the perfunctory sanction of Union Lodge.

The next proceedings, as recorded, show that "At a special meeting of D. D. G. M. Lodge of Mass. at the Franklin School Room in Nantucket, Oct. 3d A. L. 1822 at 10 o'clock A. M. by virtue of a Commission to the R. W. Elisha Starbuck, District D. G. Master of the 12th District from the M. W. John Dixwell, Grand Master, for constituting and installing Urbanity Lodge, holden at Nantucket, in the District aforesaid.

#### GRAND OFFICERS :

R. W. Elisha Starbuck, D. D. G. Master; W. Zacheus Hussey, D. G. Master; W. Francis G. Macy, D. D. G. S. Warden; W. Benjamin Brown, D. D. G. J. Warden; W. Peleg S. Folger, D. D. G. Treasurer; W. John Brock, D. D. G. Secretary; W. Rev. Seth F. Swift, D. D. G. Chaplain; W. Sewall Short, D. D. G. Marshall; W. James F. Chase, D. D. G. S. Deacon; W. George F. Bunker, D. D. G. J. Deacon; W. Nathaniel Barrett, D. D. G. S. Steward; W. Henry Riddell, D. D. G. J. Steward; W. Thomas Cary, D. D. G. Tyler.

The D. D. G. Lodge being duly Officered was opened in due and ancient form, prayers being attended to by the Chaplain, After which the W. Henry M. Pinkham was introduced and was duly examined and qualified, after which he retired. A Committee was received from Urbanity Lodge who informed they were duly assembled in Union Lodge Hall, and were ready to wait on the W. D. D. G. Lodge. The Marshal then

formed the procession, W. Bro. Wilson Rawson carrying the Holy Writings &c, W. Bro. Benjamin Bunker the Book of Constitutions. On being introduced into the Hall the following exercises commenced: Music, An address by W. Bro. Samuel H. Jenks, being well adapted for the occasion, Music, Prayers, And the Officers were installed in due and ancient form.

#### OFFICERS INSTALLED OF URBANITY LODGE:

R. W. Henry M. Pinkham, Master; W. Caleb Cushman, S. Warden; W. Isaac Hinckley, J. Warden; W. Isaac Coffin, T.; Samuel H. Jenks, S.; George Cannon, Chap.; Timothy G. Clapp, Mar.; Solomon B. Morse, S. Deacon; Robert Macy, J. Deacon; William Hart, S. S.; William C. Pitman, J. S.; John Weiderhold, T.

Prayers by the G. Chaplain, and a procession was formed of the Officers and Members of the new Lodge, round the Lodge with Music, After which the D. D. G. Marshall proclaimed the new Lodge by the name of Urbanity Lodge constituted and installed in due and ancient form. Music was then performed, After which the D. D. G. Lodge formed a procession as before and returned to the School Room and closed without day.

True record of the proceedings.

Attest JOHN BROCK, D. D. G. Secretary.

The above is a true Copy of the original on file

Attest THOMAS POWERS, Grand Secretary.

It is exceedingly unfortunate that no records of Urbanity Lodge are known to exist, by which its membership can be ascertained. If they were transmitted to the Grand Lodge when the Charter was surrendered, as undoubtedly they were, they were destroyed in the fire which swept away so many valuable documents belonging to and in custody of the Grand Lodge. When first organized its Communications were held on the third Monday of each month. So far as now appears, the only clues to its membership are to be found in the Inquirers of the time, and they gave only the names of the officers elected or installed, and even those with little regularity. Outside of this source, the only record apparently existing in regard to the Lodge is to be found in the account of the proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge. From those we conclude that there was some ill-feeling manifested in consequence of the institution of the new Lodge, since there was quite a serious friction arising out of action on the petition for

a Charter between a prominent member of each Lodge, resulting in a trial before Union Lodge, and an appeal from its decision to the Grand Lodge. The appeal was presented in the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge June 12, 1822, and was referred to a Committee; the Committee was discharged and a new one appointed March 12, 1823; and the report was finally made June 11, 1823. The original charge was against a Brother of Urbanity Lodge who was accused of "oppressing the widows of Masons." On trial of the member of Union Lodge who made the charge, Union Lodge decided the charge sustained. The report of the Committee of the Grand Lodge was that the evidence was not competent to convict, and the decision was set aside. The report said in conclusion that before the Lodge marked the character of the Brother "with the disgrace of having violated one of the most important and sacred ties \* \* \* \* \* they ought to have acquired more full and convincing proof of his guilt."

The feeling apparently found expression in another way—that is in refusing to admit to the business portion of the Lodge Communications any but Members. This, too, was referred to the Grand Lodge at a Communication held March 12, 1823, when Union Lodge sought information as to "whether a subordinate Lodge has any right to hold a Lodge of members to the exclusion of those who are not Members on a regular Communication." This, too, was referred to a Committee, who reported in June that the inquiry was not one to have been considered by the Grand Lodge, but should have been made of the Grand Master; however, the trouble was allayed, at least so that it did not come up before the Grand Lodge in any other form, and, as nearly as can be ascertained, the two bodies dwelt together in fraternal harmony.

Urbanity Lodge was represented in the Grand Lodge with reasonable regularity up to 1830, and then representation ceased. At just what time the Lodge surrendered its Charter cannot be ascertained, but a report from R. W. Robert F. Parker, District Deputy Grand Master, entered on the records of the Grand Lodge of September 9 1840, refers to it as "the late Urbanity Lodge of Nantucket."

The first suggestion of Capitular Masonry in Nantucket is found in the records of Union Lodge, where, under date of

April 6, 1801, it is recorded that it was "Voted that Bro. Wilson Rawson should meet in this Hall, on the mark Mason Degree agreeable to his appointment by his warrant for the same from City of New York dated 7 day of September, 1797." No record exists as to how many or who were associated with Companion Rawson, nor how far the organization progressed or how long it existed. His warrant antedates the organization of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts by ten months.\* Right Excellent Christopher G. Fox, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of New York, in reply to inquiries, says: "I regret that I am unable to give you any information respecting the organization of a Mark Lodge at Nantucket, or of the Capitular history of Comp. Wilson Rawson.

The extract from the records of Union Lodge, referred to in your letter, would seem to settle the matter of the issue of a Charter from New York in Sept. 1797. As the General Grand Chapter and the Grand Chapter of New York were formed subsequent to that date, I have no record bearing on the subject.

There was a Chapter in New York prior to the date above mentioned called Washington Chapter, which assumed the title of the "Mother Chapter," probably held without authority from any Grand Chapter. This Mother Chapter granted warrants for Providence Chapter, No. 1, of R. I., and three Chapters in the State of Connecticut, all of which are active now, and it is possible that the authority for holding the Mark Lodge at Nantucket was derived from that Chapter. Washington (Mother) Chapter ceased its labors two or three years after the formation of the Grand Chapter of New York. The most diligent search has failed to discover its records, or, in fact, anything pertaining to it."

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\* The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts was organized in July, 1798, although St. Andrew's Chapter existed as a Chapter several years earlier. In this connection it is interesting to note what R. E. Alfred F. Chapman says in his interesting historical sketch of that Chapter, published in 1883. On page 23 is recorded "At the meeting held July 19th, 1764, "William Rawson of Nantucket" was a visitor, a fact which may be of greater historic interest than might appear to the casual observer, for it is not improbable, that this was of the earliest sowing of that seed which eighteen years later ripened into the establishment of Rising Sun Chapter on that Island." The date is obviously intended to read 1794, and the Brother's name should have been Wilson Rawson instead of "William," a not remarkable error. St. Andrew's records report that "Bro. Smith" received the Mark Degree only, Feb. 8, 1797. It is possible that this was Bro. Henry Smith, and that later he was associated with Companion Rawson.

Our next information is derived from the records of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Massachusetts. Under date of Boston, June 9, 5812,\* it is recorded: "A petition from Comps. Rev. James Gurney, Peter Hussey, Thaddeus Coffin, and their associates, to open and hold a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the town of Nantucket, by the name of The Rising Sun, was then read,—whereon it was voted that the prayer of the petitioners be granted and that they have and receive a dispensation accordingly, provided they first obtain a recommendation from St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter, Boston."

It would seem as though St. Andrew's Chapter was at almost too remote a distance to have been affected by a Chapter at Nantucket, nevertheless the recommendation was asked for and cheerfully and unanimously granted June 17, 1812.† As nothing referring to Capitular Masonry on Nantucket appears on the records of the Grand Chapter between the above-named date and 1818, we must conclude that for some reason the Chapter never was established.

On June 9, 1818, just six years after the petition referred to above was received, the records of the Grand Chapter report:

"A petition from Seth F. Swift and others, to hold a Chapter in Nantucket, was read, and committed to Comps. Z. G. Whitman, Henry Whipple, and Roswell Lee, who having attended the duty, made the following report, viz.: The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Comp. Seth F. Swift and

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\* In the earlier Capitular records the dates are all A. D. Later they are, like the Lodge record dates, A. L., and finally the present style, A. Inv., was adopted.

† The records of St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter of June 17, 5812, say: "A Communication was received from Companion And'w Sigourney requesting the approbation of this Chapter to the petition of James Gurney, Peter Hussey, William Nichols, Thaddeus Coffin, John Brock, Jr., Wilson Rawson, David Myrick, Thomas Carey, & Josiah Barker of Nantucket to the Grand Chapter of this State for a Charter to hold a Chapter in Nantucket. The said Petition being Read it was Unanimously Voted—that their request be complied with, and that accordingly the approbation of this Chapter be signified Officially by endorsing the same on said petition." The records of St. Andrew's Chapter further show the following dates of Exaltation: Companions—Josiah Barker, Dec. 10, 1806 (dismitted Nov. 1812.); John Brock Jr., Dec. 10, 1806, James Gurney, Sept. 22, 1807; Peter Hussey, Oct. 2, 1807; David Myrick, Dec. 10, 1807; William Nichols, Sept. 22, 1807; Benjamin Russell, June 9, 1800, (dismitted Sept. 30, 1817); Seth F. Swift, May 29, 1817.

others, praying for a new Chapter to be established at Nantucket having attended to the duty assigned them, ask leave to report, that in their opinion, the prayer of the petitioners ought to be granted, and that the M. E. Grand High Priest be requested to grant them the usual dispensation or warrant issued in such cases." This report was accepted, and the record further says: "At a special Meeting of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, held in the town of Nantucket, 25th of November, 5818, for the purpose of dedicating and installing the officers of Rising Sun Chapter: Present: M. E. Henry Fowle, Dep. Gr High Priest; E. Joseph Brown, Grand King; E. T. P. Jackson, Grand Scribe; E. Simeon Copps, Gr. Treas. pro tem.; E. Benj. Smith, Gr. Secy. and Gr. Marshall pro tem.; Rev. and E. Paul Dean, Grand Chaplain. The Grand Chapter was opened in due form, and the following commission and report were read, viz.:

*To M. E. Comps. Joseph Brown and Paul Dean,—*

COMPANIONS,—You are hereby appointed a Committee to visit and examine the officers and members of Rising Sun Chapter, inspect their Records, By-Laws and mode of work, and report to me on or before Wednesday, the 25th of November inst.

Yours affectionately,

HENRY FOWLE,  
Deputy Grand High Priest.

Nantucket, Nov 22, A. L. 5818.

*To M. E. Henry Fowle, Deputy Grand High Priest:—*

Your Committee have attended to the duty assigned them, and beg leave to report, that the officers and members of Rising Sun Chapter are worthy and well qualified; their records kept in a handsome and correct style; and their By-Laws and mode of work such as are consistent with the General Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts.

Signed                   JOSEPH BROWN } Committee  
Nantucket, Nov 25, 5818.     PAUL DEAN       }

Voted, that the Grand Chapter do now proceed to dedicate Rising Sun Chapter, and install its officers.

A grand procession was then formed, and proceeded to the meeting-house,\* where the ceremonies of dedication were performed, and the following is a list of the officers installed, viz.: M. E. Seth F. Swift, High Priest; E. Zaccheus Hussey,

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\* The South Congregational.

King; E. Thaddeus Coffin, Scribe; Comp. Peter Chase, Treasurer; Comp. James F. Chase, Secretary; Comp. Aaron Mitchell, Royal Arch Captain; Comp. Gorham Coffin, Captain of Host;\* Comp. Martin P. Morton, Principal Sojourner; Comp. Elisha Starbuck, Master of 3d Vail; Comp. Hezekiah B. Gardner, Master of 2d Vail; Comp. Roswell L. Brett, Master of 1st Vail; Comp. Jonathan Collesworthy, Steward; Comp. John Brock, Steward; Comp. Wilson Rawson, Tyler.

After which a very suitable and appropriate discourse was delivered, and suitable music performed by a select choir.

The grand procession was then reformed and proceeded to Mason's Hall, and partook of a very sumptuous entertainment, provided for the occasion by Rising Sun Chapter.

The Grand Chapter returned to their Hall, and closed.

A true record from minutes of E. Benj. Smith.

Attest JOHN J. LORING, Grand Secretary.

Nothing further of importance is recorded of Rising Sun Chapter, save its representation at the Convocations of the Grand Chapter, until September 9, 1824, when the records of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter say: "A communication from Rising Sun Chapter at Nantucket, stating their wish to surrender their Charter, and a memorial against the same, was read, and the subject committed to Comps. A. Peabody, John Abbott, Henry Whipple, Daniel Baxter and Thomas Tolman." This Committee made a report Dec. 7, the purport of which does not appear, which was read and "ordered to lie on the table for the present, for the information of the Grand Chapter, and that the Committee be instructed and authorized to take all necessary steps to inquire and ascertain all the causes of difficulty in and about the premises, even if it should require the personal attendance of said Committee at Nantucket, and make report of their doings at a future meeting of this Grand Chapter."

December 14 the Committee was discharged at their own request and the following motion was voted; "That the M. E. Grand High Priest and Deputy Grand High Priest, be a Committee to repair to Nantucket, if they find it necessary, with full power in the name and on behalf of the Grand Chapter, to decide all the controversies and difficulties existing among the members of Rising Sun Chapter, and that they be authorized

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<sup>†</sup> The order of succession of some of the officers was quite different from the present.

to return the charter and regalia to the officers and members of said Chapter, or to retain and return the same to the Grand Chapter."

At the Convocation of the Grand Chapter for September 13, 1825, the Committee reported that—"in the month of July last, pursuant to previous notice, they repaired to Nantucket and summoned all the former members of the Rising Sun Chapter to appear before them, and collectively and individually to make known their grievances and complaints. The summons was cheerfully obeyed, and a long and patient investigation was had. The companions of that Chapter demeaned themselves with frankness and forbearance which was creditable to those who had long been in the attitude of hostility towards each other.

The Committee found the complaints and discontents numerous, but none of them founded on very important grounds. It was found that unfriendly feelings had arisen among individuals, which, by inadvertent remarks, misconstructions of each other's motives, and perhaps a rivalry between candidates for office, had risen to personal animosity. The frailties of individuals had been strongly arrayed by their opponents, and some who had many good qualities, tarnished by some unhappy faults, but who on the whole stood well in public estimation, had been accused, as unworthy of membership. And from such causes, their meetings became inharmonious and unprofitable, and the result was the return of their charter.

After a full hearing, the Committee were convinced that a proper restraint of feeling and exercise of charity and discretion, would return harmony to the Chapter. We were satisfied that no decision of the Grand Chapter would be productive of good. They were exhorted to mutual forgiveness. Time had softened their animosity, and when they had met and explained, they appeared to adopt the opinions of the Committee.

The result was, that all the members present agreed to request the return of the charter to all members of Rising Sun Royal Arch Chapter; and they promised, if it should be returned, to support it on Masonic principles. Upon this the Committee restored to them their charter and regalia.

As the controversy is thus terminated, it appears inexpedient to detail the various accusations and complaints. We lament that difficulties of such a character among Royal Arch Masons should ever exist, or if they must sometimes exist, that they should not immediately be corrected by those among whom they had their origin. The termination of the difficulties in Rising Sun Royal Arch Chapter, we believe is the wisest and best that could be; and it will probably be long before

the Grand Chapter will hear any similar complaints from Nantucket.

Signed PAUL DEAN  
AUGUSTUS PEABODY } Committee

Boston, Sept. 9, 1825.

The above report was accepted, and, on motion, *Voted*. That the thanks of this Grand Chapter be presented to the M. E. Paul Dean and Augustus Peabody, for their very arduous and successful exertions in healing the breaches and settling the controversies which have unhappily existed among the companions of Rising Sun Chapter at Nantucket."

Rising Sun Chapter seems to have wrecked and to have foundered in the Anti-Masonic storm. The final mention of it on the records of the Grand Chapter is on September 8, 1840, when the following was recorded : "The Committee on delinquent Chapters, reported, by reading a letter from Robert F. Parker, addressed to Comp. Charles W. Moore. On motion of Comp. Moore, it was *Voted*, That the letter and a memorandum be filed with the jewels and regalia returned by Rising Sun Chapter of Nantucket, pledging (as a gratuity and not as a principle,) the avails of said regalia should any ever be realized from them, to the payment of a debt of \$40, due by said Chapter to Comp. Rob't F. Parker of said Nantucket." And so perished Rising Sun Royal Arch Chapter.\*

The last chapter of Capitular Masonry in Nantucket is soon written, for it has to do with recent years. The records of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter for September 10, 1867, state that on that day a petition was received from Charles E. Allen, Henry C. Pinkham, William Hart, George F. Bunker, James F. Chase, George S. Wilbur, Charles H. Jaggar, Orrin F. Adams and George W. Macy praying that a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons might be established in Nantucket, which was referred to M. E. R. S. Pope ; D. W. Crafts and L. A. Felix, who later in the day made their report. That report said "From evidence presented, they are satisfied, that though the

\* Comp. Rev. William Morse of Nantucket, was appointed Grand Chaplain Sept. 7, 1830, and again Sept. 13, 1831, Oct. 2, 1832, and Dec. 10, 1833. At the Memorial Service in honor of the late Comp. De Witt Clinton, G. H. P. of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, held in Boston June 10, 1828, an elegy, written for the occasion by Comp. Samuel H. Jenks, was sung.

Chapter may never be large, as regards numbers, from the peculiar circumstances of location, yet it will doubtless be a live and active one, and therefore they recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, when the petition is indorsed by Orient Chapter."\*

A dispensation was granted the same day. The Charter members, besides those already named, were Joseph Mitchell, 2d, Joseph S. Barney, Stephen R. Williams, William H. Weston and Francis B. Smith. One petitioner, William Hart, does not appear as a Charter member. The name given the new Chapter was "Isle of the Sea." The officers working under Dispensation were: Charles H. Jaggar, M. E. H. P.; Joseph S. Barney, E. K.; C. E. Allen, E. S.; Geo. W. Macy, T.; Orrin F. Adams, Sec.; G. S. Wilber, C. of H.; O. F. Adams, P. S.; J. F. Chase, R. A. C.; J. Mitchell, 2d, M. of 3d V.; G. F. Bunker, M. of 2d V.; H. C. Pinkham, M. of 1st V.; Wm. Hart, Chap. The Chapter was consecrated and the officers installed by officers of the Grand Chapter, August 27, 1868. The only changes made at that time in the list of officers were that Stephen R. Williams was installed M. of the 3d V.; Henry C. Pinkham, M. of 2d V.; George F. Bunker, M. of 1st V.; and Frannis B. Smith, Sentinel.

But one more phase of Free Masonry in Nantucket remains to be mentioned, and that, owing to the almost total absence of data, but very briefly.

The origin of Cryptic Masonry in Nantucket is even more obscure than that of Capitular Masonry. As before, the first suggestion of it is found in the records of Union Lodge.

The record of August 12, 1823, says that "Rev. Stephen Bailey and Benj Brown as a committee from the Council pray for the use of this Hall to hold the Convocations in." A Committee was appointed, and instructed "to let the Hall according to their own feelings." This indicates that at that date a Council of Royal and Select Masters was in existence, but when it was organized, or under what authority, are problems as wrapped in obscurity as the origin of Speculative Masonry. The Grand Council of Massachusetts was not organized until June, 1826, about three years afterwards.†

\* Of Hyannis.

† The early Grand Council records are very imperfect, and there seems to be no mention of a Council at Nantucket. The name probably was Unity. As in other bodies, the titles of the officers have been somewhat changed in these later years.

In the Inquirer of December 16, 1823, there is mention of Unity Council of Royal and Select Masters, and on January 3. 1825, the Inquirer published the following list of officers, of what it then calls Union Council: "Companions George Cannon Esq., M. I. Grand Master; Isaac W. Whitman Esq., Illustrious G. M.; Josiah Hussey Esq., I. Conductor of the Work; S. H. Jenks, Master of the Exchequer; James F. Chase, Recorder; Henry M. Pinkham, Senior Grand Warden; Wm. P. Stanton, Junior Grand Warden; Benjamin Brown, Master of the Guards; Elisha Starbuck, Inside Sentinel; Wilson Rawson, Outside Sentinel.\*

This is absolutely all that has come to light concerning this Council, up to the present time. It is possible that among the papers of some of the Companions named may yet be found further information concerning insular Cryptic, as well as Capitular and Symbolic Masonry.

\* The titles of officers are somewhat different at the present time.

NOTES.—In a petition to the Gen'l Court in 1779, Bro. Tristram Barnard states that he sailed for England in 1775; that his vessel was sold there; that he engaged in the whale fishery from that country; that, desiring to return to his native country he, with a Capt. Jno. Chaddock, bought a vessel; that they have taken the oath of allegiance to the United States; that his crew is composed of Americans who had been prisoners in England and whom he assisted in escaping and secreted on his vessel; and that he frequently assisted prisoners in that country. The Committee of the General Court found his claims well founded.

Bro. Jonathan Downs was granted a permit by the Gen'l Court to go to the French and Dutch W. I. islands with a cargo of fish and lumber in the schooner Nightingale, provided he would import West India goods and salt. Bro. John Elkins received a similar permit for the sloop Sandwich.

Bro. William Goldsmith, in a petition to the Gen'l Court, represents that he was obliged, in the course of his business, to sail from London in British employ; that he is a native of and strongly attached to this country; that he was unable to return because of the Restraining Bill; that he steadily refused to take on his vessel guns or munitions of war because he would not oppose his native country's cause; that he has shown tender attention to American prisoners in England; and that his vessel was captured by the American privateer Lexington. He asks release and liberty to return to London, and his petition is fully indorsed by the owners of the Lexington. The Court grants the petition on his promise to procure the release of an American of the same rank.

Bro. Andrew Myrick 2d represents himself in a petition to the Court as owner of the sloop Industry; that he "has exerted himself in the great Cause of Liberty as much as any Man upon the Island, by Supplying Boats, &c., and in every other way in his Power, & is still (1777) ready to do so;" he asks a permit to proceed on a voyage to Curacao, engaging to bring in gunpowder, etc. The Court granted him the permit.

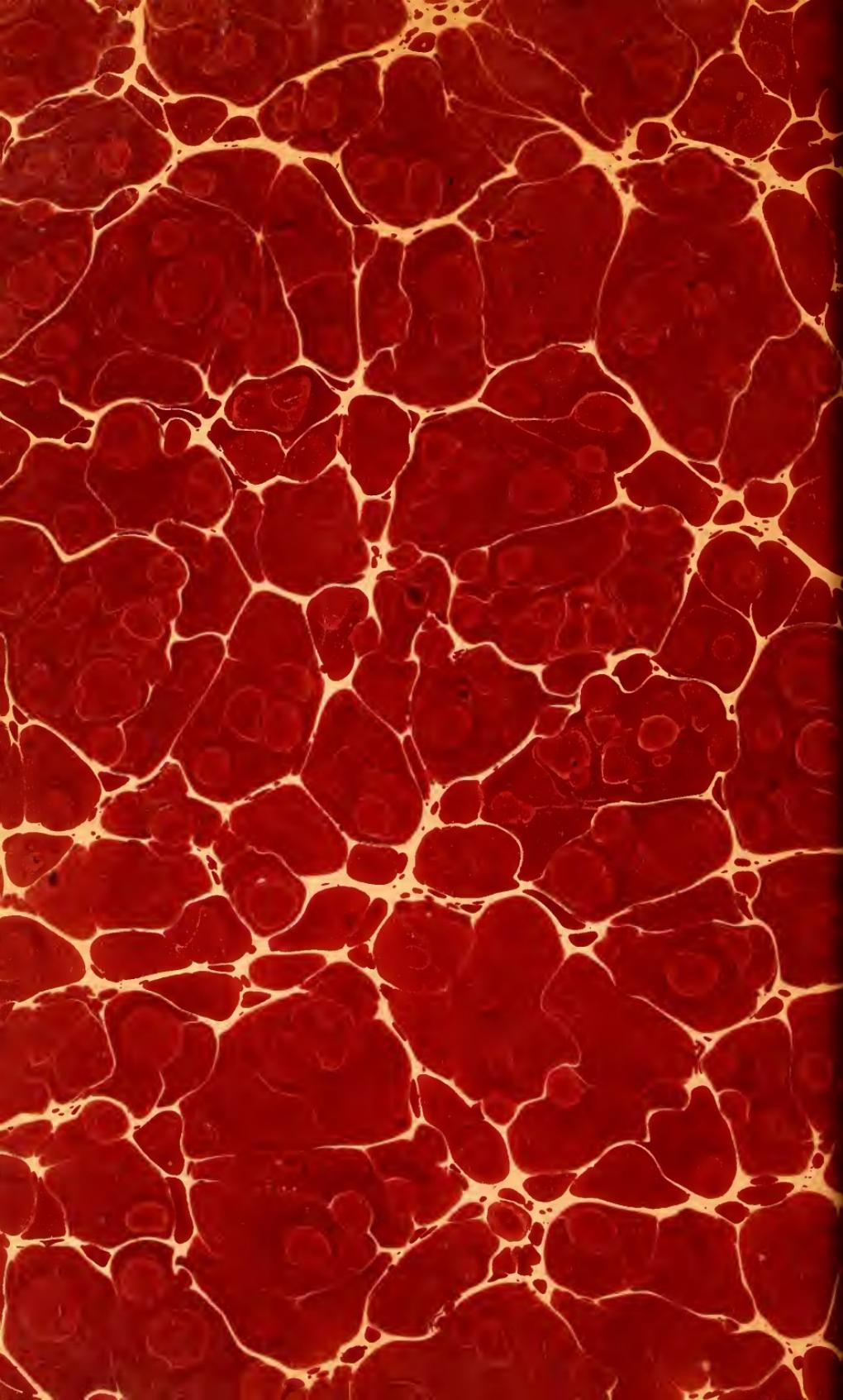


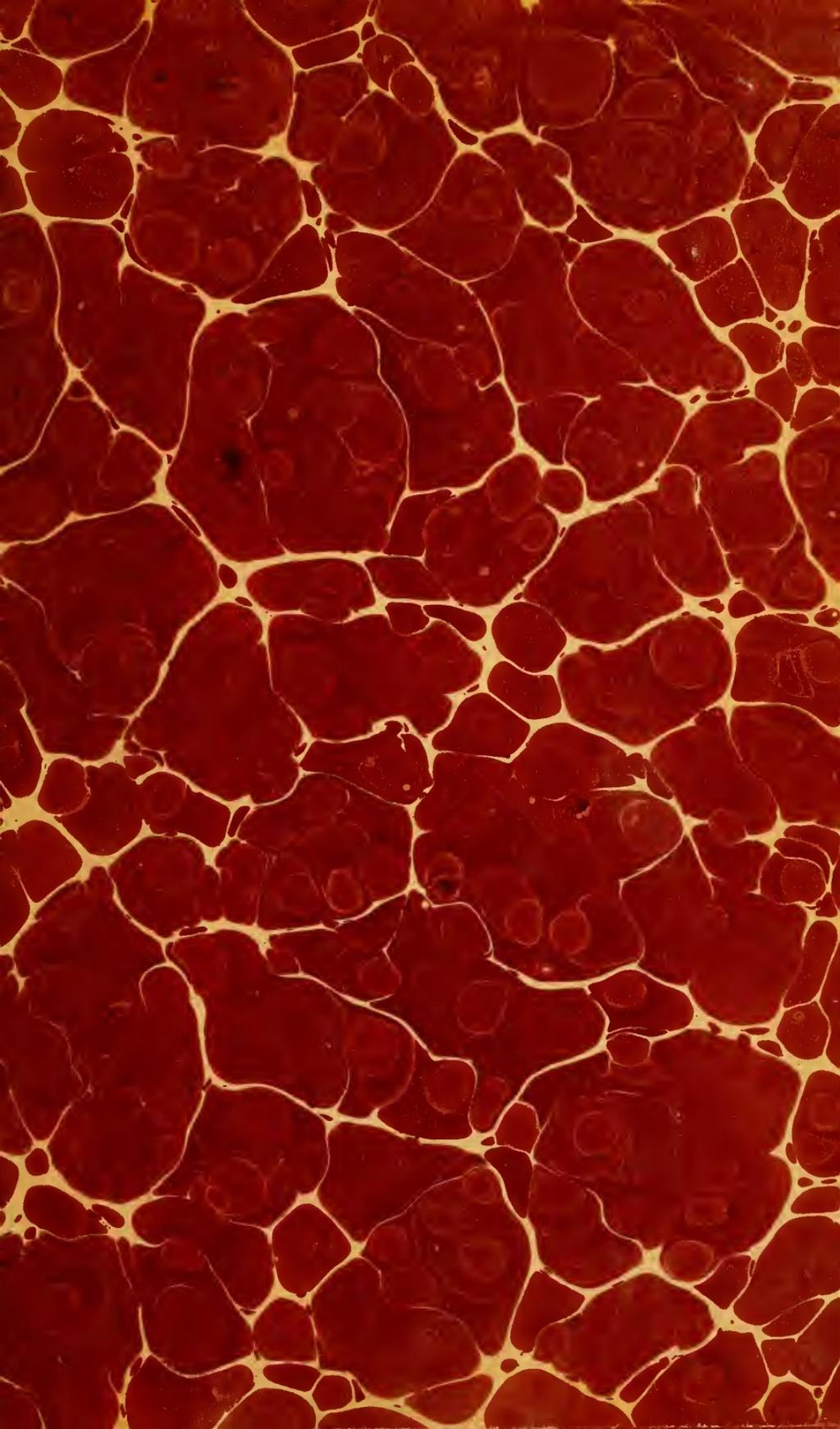












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